With a heavy heart, Kris flies to Los Angeles

STORY BELOW, COL. 6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Colombia declares state of emergency** WORLD/ A10
- **Flavier is new Senate pro tempore** NEWS / A2
- **Revenue targets cut** BUSINESS/ B1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Running priest' playing politics, says Pichay

By Juliet L. Javellana

SURIGAO del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. yesterday hit back at "running priest" Robert Reyes who wondered why the congressman had not been arrested in connection with a P3-million estafa case filed in 1997.

"Father Reyes is making it appear

RUNNING/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, August 13, 2002 ★ 40 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 246 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'A gambling republic'

Erap, opposition blast GMA on slot machine expansion plan

By Volt Contreras, Cynthia Balana and Christine Avendaño

A "GAMBLING republic" run by a "hypocrite."

The political opposition blasted the Macapagal administration yesterday for allowing the proliferation of slot machines outside state-regulated casinos, with party leaders rising in both chambers of Congress to assail the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and deposed President Joseph Estrada accusing the President herself of "the height of hypocrisy."

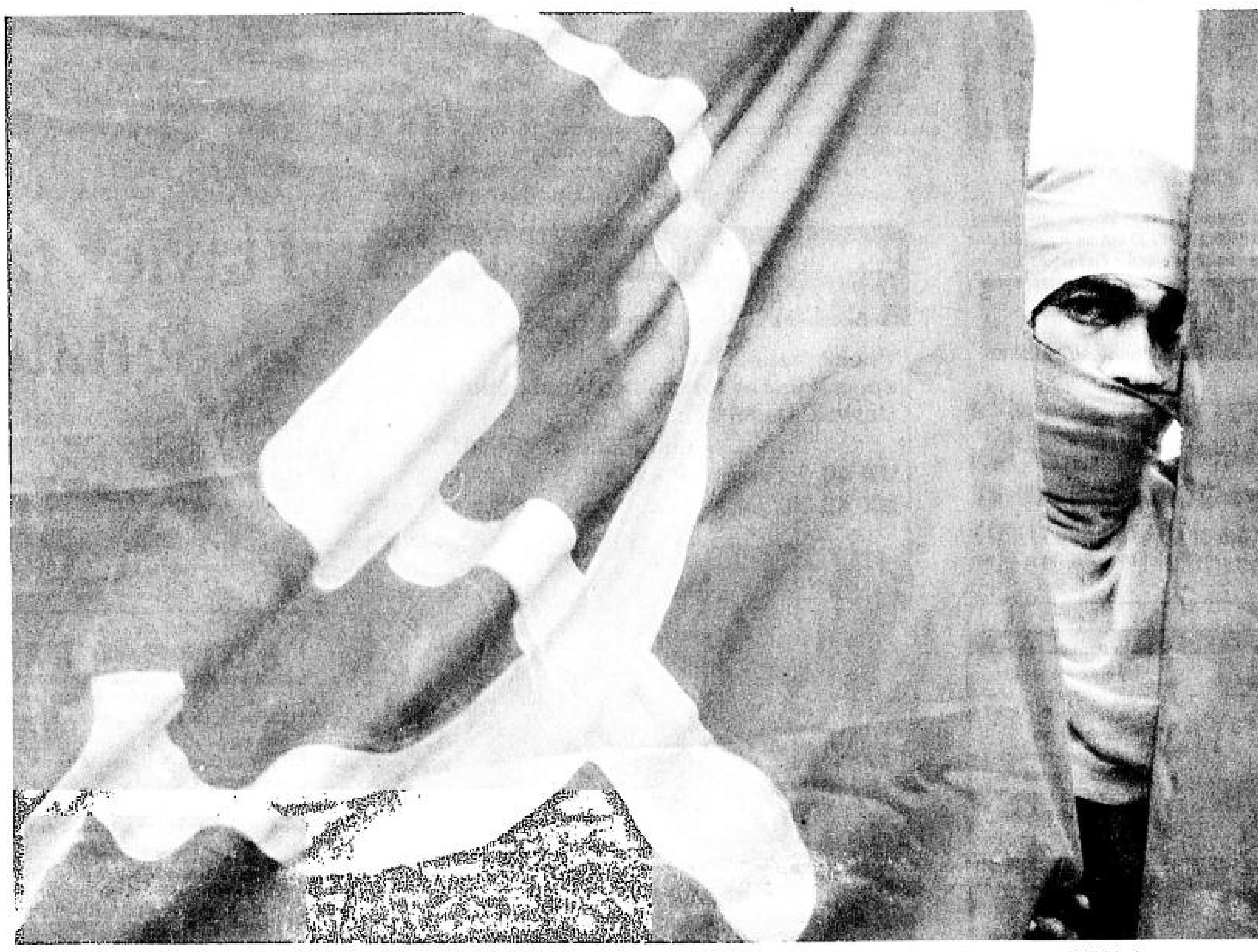
In a privilege speech, Sen. Edgardo Angara accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of turning the country into a virtual "gambling republic" by introducing thousands of slot machines—even without any prior public consultation or dialogue with moral leaders and policymakers.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said a group of congressmen was forming an "anti-gambling bloc in Congress" that would oppose gambling "whether legal or not."

From his detention room at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Estrada issued a statement lambasting Ms Macapagal for allowing the increase in the number of slot machines. He recalled how he said he had been demonized by the oust-Estrada movement using an "anti-gambling platform."

"This, to me, is the height of hypocrisy since Ms (Macapagal) Arroyo has made it appear that she is anti-gambling; it is on this platform that she together with her allies in the so-called civil society launched a conspiracy to seize

A GAMBLING/A14



DENNIS SABANGAN

OPEN PROTEST. A member of the communist-led underground group National Democratic Front displays a hammer-and-sickle banner during a "lightning" rally against the United States inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

GMA: Commies OK, but not terrorists

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S OK to be a communist as long as one does not take up arms against the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo took this line yesterday amid calls for her to make known her stand on the US state department's designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), as foreign terrorist organizations.

Ms Macapagal said "communism is no longer against the law" because the government had already repealed Republic Act No. 1700 or the Anti-Subversion Law that outlawed communist organizations and related groups.

"What is illegal is armed struggle to overthrow the government," she said after she presented captured car thieves to the media in Camp Crame.

To illustrate her point, the President mentioned several communist groups in the country not engaged in armed struggle—the Akbayan party-list group of Rep. Loreta Ann Rosales, the Sanlakas group of the late labor leader Felimon "Popoy" Lagman, the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas of Luis Taruc, and the

GMA/A14

US, RP ask Netherlands to freeze CPP assets

By Christine Herrera
in Manila
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE UNITED States and the Philippines have separately asked the Dutch government to freeze the assets of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and deport its leaders.

"The US request is still being studied. We have yet to find out the specifics on how to go about the freezing of assets and curtailing of the CPP-NDF (National Democratic Front) activities," Maurits Tarkuile, spokesperson of the Dutch Embassy in Manila, said.

Following the US request, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday revived its request for the Netherlands to "go after and prosecute" CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni and other rebel leaders for alleged "criminal, and now, terrorist activities."

The NDF is an umbrella organization that includes the CPP.

The Dutch city of Utrecht hosts about 30 Filipino exiles suspected of holding top positions in the CPP, including Sison, who is seeking political asylum there on grounds of political persecution.

Tarkuile said the US request came a few hours after US Secretary of State Colin L. Powell classified the CPP and its military wing, the 11,000-member New People's Army (NPA), as foreign terrorist organizations on Friday.

"The US government delivered the letter of request to the Dutch government through its embassy in the Netherlands. I

US/A14

Slain cop a rallying call against criminality

HERO'S WAKE. President Macapagal visits the wake of Oliver Benedicto, a police officer who died while fighting a gang of robbers, at his house in Sta. Ana, Manila. JERRY CARUAL

AT A SMALL ramshackle home in Manila's tough Santa Ana District, a thick crowd gathered to pay their last respects to a model policeman slain by robbers on his wedding anniversary.

PO3 Oliver Benedicto, 32, was the first police officer killed in action since President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an intensified campaign last month to arrest a rash of crimes that has given the country's image a black eye.

The death of the young policeman, savagely killed when he tried to stop a gang of robbers who hijacked a bus, has evoked sympathy among his peers and the public and strengthened society's resolve to fight criminality, police officers say.

The President, who visited Benedicto's wake at his crowded home in an impoverished section of Santa Ana, promised his family swift justice and ordered a massive manhunt for the suspects.

Crime and corruption have become the most urgent concerns of investors and the public in the country, and Ms Macapagal had vowed to fight them to help her create

SLAIN/A16

Mayor, 2 cops face kidnap raps

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE SO-CALLED strong republic cast its dragnet wide over the weekend, and began reeling in the proverbial big fish.

On Friday, the police chief of Sultan Kudarat province and a town mayor were charged with kidnapping a Korean national and a Davao City businessman.

And a Central Luzon police official confirmed that the police chief of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, was under investigation for alleged involvement in a vigilante group turned kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Supt. Abubakar Mangelen

MAYOR/A16

President endorses probe of graft rap vs Roco

By Carlito Pablo and Donna S. Cueto

BARELY two weeks after results of a survey showed him as the man to beat in the 2004 presidential election, Education Secretary Raul Roco is facing investigation for alleged graft and unethical practices.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed a seven-page complaint against Roco, which employees of the Department of Education had submitted to Malacañang, to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission chaired by Dario Rama.

"PAGC-Rama," read Ms Macapagal's handwritten marginal note on the complaint that accused Roco of violating two laws. The PAGC, whose jurisdiction covers presidential appointees, is an agency directly under the Office of the President.

Roco yesterday refused to comment despite a request from the INQUIRER for him to do so.

Members of his staff initially said he was out of the office. But he later phoned one of them to say that he had no comment to make.

Roco has largely ignored the complaints of the DepEd Central Office Employees Union, whose members daily hold a protest rally every office day at noon.

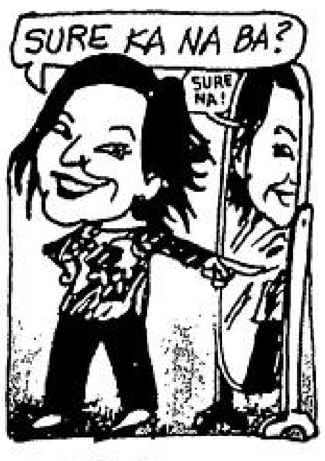
They say Roco has neither met with them nor addressed their grievances.

The union submitted the complaint, in the form of a resolution dated July 11, to Malacañang on Aug. 1. Rama received the President's endorsement of the complaint on Aug. 8.

"We will ask Mr. Roco to comment and explain his side," the PAGC chair said yesterday in a phone interview.

He said it was routine practice for Ms Macapagal to write

PRESIDENT/A14


SURE KA NA BA?
SURE NA!

With heavy heart, Kris flies to US

By Leah Salterio

THE REIGNING Queen of Love has flown to the United States—on first-class, of course.

Kris Aquino left last night on a Philippine Airlines flight to take a break from the heat generated by her high-

WITH/A15

TULOY ANG KODAKAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Photo-ops with suspects fruitful–GMA

By Martin P. Marfil and Cynthia D. Balana

THERE will be no let-up in the presidential presentation of criminal suspects before media as it encourages witnesses to come out, thus boosting the government's anti-crime drive, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared yesterday.

"One of the reasons I am having this photo-op is because the Philippine National Police was able to achieve great things during the weekend—the apprehension of five carnappers," Ms Macapagal said as she presided over a photo session in yet another media presentation of suspects at Camp Crame, Quezon City, yesterday.

"The second reason I have to continue doing this is because witnesses and victims come out when they see the faces of the suspects on television," she added.

In the view of administration Sen. Ralph Recto, however, it is white-collar criminals such as drug counterfeiters, not small-time criminals, who should be paraded before the media by the President for her anti-crime campaign to gain public support.

Recto has expressed concern over the British-based Oxford University study which showed that eight percent of the drugs being sold in Philippine drugstores were either fake or contained non-active ingredients.

"Fake drug-making is genocide," said Recto, urging that drug counterfeiters should not be allowed to go scot-free.

The President commended the PNP for apprehending five suspected carnappers and recovering six carnapped vehicles, including two motorcycles.

Those arrested were identified as the leader of the Mayor Gang, Andres Palabasan Jr.; Romy Arago, said to be a member of the same gang; Jose Samson, who was caught driving a stolen Hi-Lander; Alvin Magpayo and Philip Andre Navarro of the Mechure group who were caught driving a stolen Pajero.

The five were arrested in separate operations over the past few days.

Ms Macapagal said she expected the latest PNP achievement to land in the newspapers' front pages, presumably because of her presence.

She cited an incident the other day in which Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo announced the seizure of smuggled goods.

"I was in the front pages while Tony Bernardo who had seized the smuggled goods landed on page 10," she said.

"If I had been with Bernardo, the seizure could have landed in the front pages,"he said in Filipino.

Recto said the fake drugs were found by the Bureau of Food and Drugs to contain mostly flour, sugar and other substances that could be harmful to human health.

The BFAD earlier disclosed that nearly 30 percent of drugs in the domestic market were fake or substandard.

From January 2001 to June 2002 alone, the BFAD was able to file 59 cases against drugstores found to be selling counterfeit drugs.

Recto said the government should exempt BFAD inspectors from the hiring freeze so they could monitor the proliferation of the bad drugs.

The government has declared a moratorium on the hiring of personnel to conserve finances in the wake of a possible P150 billion budget deficit this year.

Recto said the Philippines has been tagged as a "fake drug maker's paradise" because of the shortage of personnel to go after traffickers of counterfeit medicines.

With only 31 inspectors checking on the drugs sold in Metro Manila's 2,814 pharmacies, he said, it was not surprising that the Philippines has been described by the World Health Organization as a hotbed of fake-drug selling.

The WHO report said the prevalence of counterfeit drugs in Asia was on the rise, making it a far more serious problem than the violation of intellectual property rights.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta urged the BFAD to take steps to prevent the proliferation of fake drugs.

Oreta said the BFAD should report to the public what it has done so far to stop the scam and whether it has arrested and penalized the sellers of the bogus medicines.

She said there should be a massive information campaign to warn the public and a government crackdown on the syndicates involved in the scam.

AFTER presenting the kidnap suspects to media, the President inspects one of the vehicles they allegedly stole. EDWIN BACASMAS

Flavier takes over as Senate pro tem

By Rocky Nazareno

THE Senate reorganization was completed yesterday, with Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar stepping down to get the chairmanship of the powerful committees on finance and foreign relations.

"It was the consensus that it would be best for the country, the Senate and the majority," Villar said in explaining his resignation.

The move sparked a slight revamp, with most of the committee assignments being retained to keep the status quo prior to June 3 when the fight for control of the Senate erupted between the administration and opposition blocs.

Administration Sen. Juan Flavier was elected new Senate President Pro Tempore.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also resigned, creating a mild ripple.

"It is with an aching heart that I relinquish my position," Pimentel said. His nominee, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, took over the post.

Lakas-NUCD Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. got the chairmanship of the committee on agriculture, and stayed on as chair of the committee on national defense and security.

Another administration solon, Sen. Robert Barbers, was named chair of the committee on local government, which was relinquished by opposition Sen. John Osmeña.

Osmeña stayed on as chair of the committee on government corporations and public enterprises. Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara remained as chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws.

In all, the Senate minority was given the chairmanship of eight of 36 standing committees.

'Milenyo' brings more rain

TROPICAL depression "Milenyo" is getting closer to Metro Manila and the lahar areas in Central Luzon, as it continues to dump rains in the Bicol region and Leyte.

The weather bureau said "Milenyo" will be in the vicinity of Catanduanes near Daet, Camarines Norte this morning, before crossing to southern and Central Luzon.

At 10 a.m. yesterday, Milenyo's center was estimated at 200 kilometers east of Catarman, Northern Samar, and 410 kms east of Daet with strongest sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center. It was forecast to move west northwest at 19 kph. Milenyo will be 90 kms west of Iba, Zambales on Wednesday morning, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

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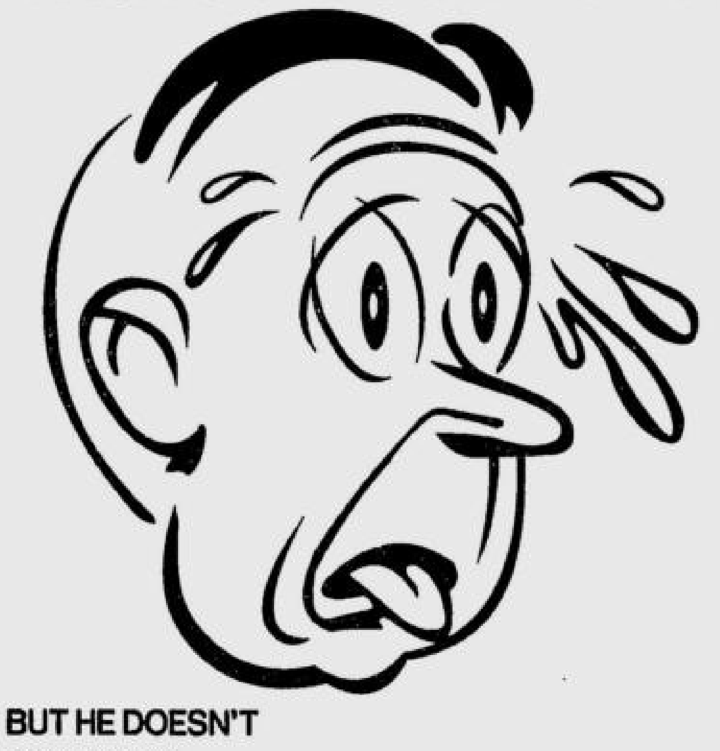

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7 of 10 Pinoys want PPA abolished

By Juliet L. Javellana

FILIPINOS across all social classes want the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges abolished.

They also do not buy the power companies' claim that they will incur losses if the surcharge is abolished, according to a nationwide survey by the Pulse Asia firm.

Seven out of 10 Filipinos want the PPA abolished, with six out of seven not believing a warning by power firms that they would suffer losses if the PPA was done away with, Pulse Asia found in its 2nd quarter "Ulat ng Bayan" survey conducted late last month.

Pulse Asia polled 1,200 respondents, aged 18 and above, regarding what action they would prefer government to take on the PPA, an automatic cost-recovery mechanism that accounts for a significant portion of the monthly consumer electricity bills.

The outrage against the PPA caused President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend its collection in May ahead of her second State of the Nation Address on July 22.

Pulse Asia research director Felipe Miranda said the polling firm decided to focus on the PPA in their latest survey "given the impact of electricity prices on the budget of Filipinos and the government's efforts to bring prices down."

Respondents were asked to tick off their top three choices of government action on the PPA from seven possibilities.

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents picked abolition of the PPA "in its entirety" as the top course of action.

Sixty-one percent said the government should immediately investigate the companies selling electricity to the public and determine if they would suffer losses with the abolition.

The third highest option, wanted by 51 percent, was for the government to immediately suspend the collection of PPA from consumers.

Pulse Asia noted that the top recommendation of the better-off Class ABC (73 percent) was an immediate investigation into the claims of power firms, with abolition coming in second (67 percent).

But it said the general sentiment was for the PPA's abolition, which was recommended by 70 percent of the poorer Class D and 66 percent of the poorest Class E.

"This could indicate that while the concerns of the lower classes regarding the PPA is mainly budgetary, the upper class is mainly looking for validation of the charges," Pulse Asia said.

Ebdane clarifies revamp

THE NATIONAL police chief confirmed yesterday that a revamp was forthcoming, but said reports about who would be affected were not correct.

"Many are guessing, and the newspapers' batting average is low. (The reports) were not so accurate. Why don't you just wait (for the announcement)?" Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said, speaking in Filipino.

He added that some of the items published were easily discernible information, but reiterated that most of the names mentioned were wrong.

Asked when the revamp was due, Ebdane told newsmen, apparently in jest, to just read the papers.

The revamp, other officials said, would affect at least 12 ranking officers.

But Ebdane said the reports had surprised him.

"What happened was that the newspapers published stories that I didn't know anything about," he said.

Martin P. Marfil

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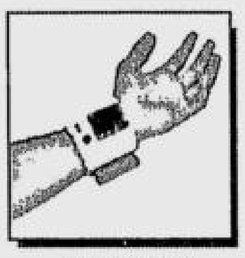

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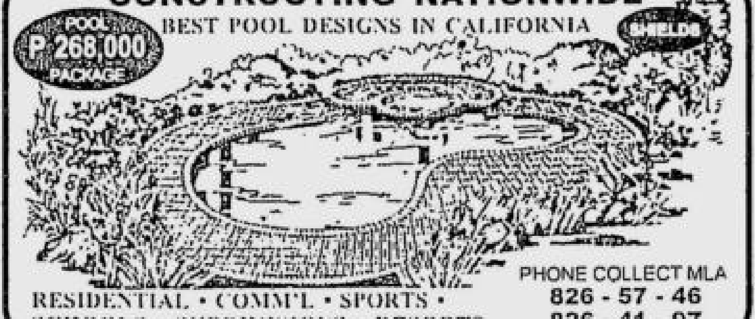

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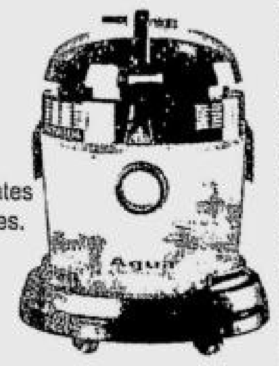

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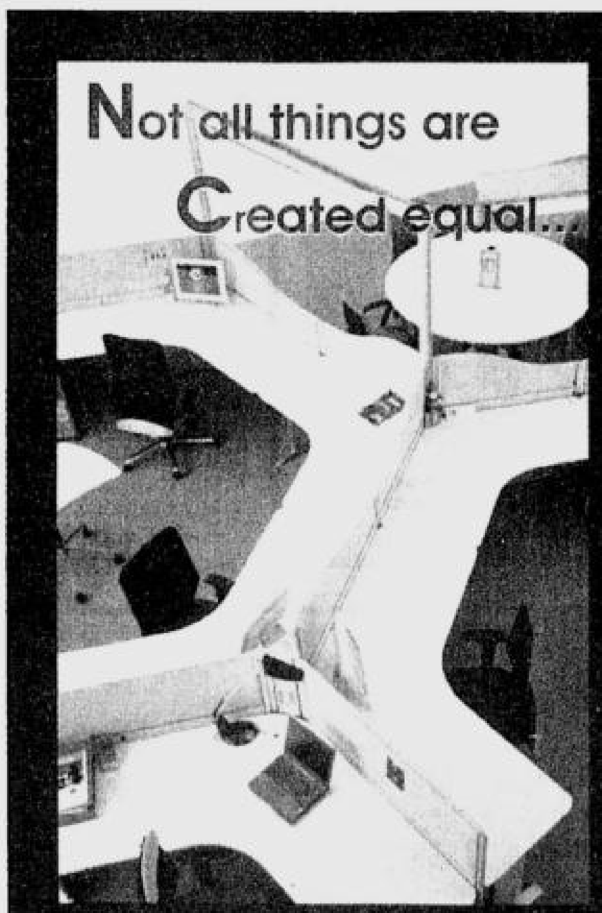

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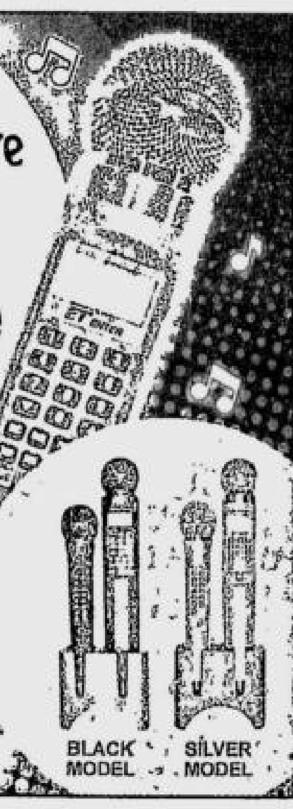

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HK mulls taxes on foreign maids

HONG Kong is looking into the possibility of taxing employers of foreign domestic helpers in a bid to boost opportunities for local workers hit by record unemployment.

A Chinese-language newspaper yesterday reported that authorities were seriously studying the impact of 240,000 overseas domestic helpers on the local workforce. Of this number, 155,200 are from the Philippines, and the rest from Indonesia and Thailand.

The tax would be part of a proposed reduction of incentives for hiring foreign workers, according to the Oriental Daily News. The target was to slash the number of foreign domestics by 50,000-60,000, the report said.

Hong Kong's jobless rate has soared to a record 7.7 percent this year amid an economic slowdown.

Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip refused to confirm the proposed levy. "The government is conducting a review on policy regarding foreign domestic helpers," he admitted, "(but) we have not taken any decision."

Cynthia Tellez, director of the Mission for Filipino Migrant workers, said the levy would just encourage less humane treatment of foreign domestic workers.

Joseph Law of the Overseas Domestic Helpers Association said all that the locals had to do for employers to consider hiring them as househelp was to lower their hourly rates to at least HK$35 (US$4.49) from the current HK$50.

In January, the government retained foreign domestic helpers' minimum wage at HK$3,670 dollars (US$470 dollars) a month, rejecting employers' clamor for pay cuts. ***AFP***

For Public Works chief, fear is key

By Armand N. Nocum

DATUMANONG

FEAR is good.

For Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong, fear is a good way of keeping his department, admittedly one of the government's most graft-ridden, free of irregularities.

The ongoing investigation into a motor vehicle repair scam at the DPWH has reportedly brought apprehension to officials as well as the rank and file who fear becoming the next targets of graft investigations.

The probe into the P139-million vehicle repair scam caused the suspension of several ranking DPWH officials.

"The sword of Damocles is hanging over our heads. I'm happy that there is now that fear. Everybody will be on their toes," Datumanong told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Other DPWH officials were not too pleased, however.

"This is demoralizing to all of us. It is now a case of 'damned if you do and damned if you don't.' We are now afraid to do anything at all," said a DPWH project manager who sought anonymity.

The investigation into the P139-million vehicle repair scam linked 38 DPWH to the anomaly, and resulted in 90-day suspensions for Undersecretaries Edmundo Mir and Mabini Pablo for failing to effect a speedy investigation into the matter.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took up the case to show the government's resolve in weeding out grafters from government, ordered the filing of graft charges against those involved.

However, Datumanong, who ordered the investigation that uncovered the vehicle repair scam, assuaged the feelings of department personnel.

"Those who are not engaged in any wrongdoing should not have anything to fear," he said.

He said this was the message he gave to officials of the DPWH labor union who visited him recently to express their concerns about the investigation.

"They now understand the importance of keeping the DPWH above anyone's interest. Our urgent responsibility is to erase the perception the department is graft-ridden," Datumanong said.

Earlier, Datumanong said he had ordered his chief of staff, Lorenzo Sulaik, who heads the five-men investigative team looking into the falsified repairs of DPWH vehicles, to look into other irregularities involving other department officials.

Datumanong, a former congressman, said it is his goal to totally rid the department of graft and corruption.

"This is for the good of the (DPWH). If the scandals involve me, I will step down rather than destroy the name of the department," he said. "If I see that my continuing presence would contribute to the downfall of the DPWH, then I will get out."

Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto said the department was going through a "cleansing process."

"All this is happening because we have been very transparent in all our transactions," Pleyto said.

The DPWH personnel and officials were accused of charging repairs to department vehicles that were never carried out.

Raps vs Pineda up to next Ombudsman

By Volt Contreras

SINGSON

PINEDA

IT will be up to the next Ombudsman to decide whether to pursue charges against suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, who was described by former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson in court yesterday as possibly the biggest single collector of gambling protection money for jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, one of the prosecutors in the plunder trial of Estrada, took this position when asked why Pineda has not been charged or tapped to be a witness like Singson despite figuring prominently in the ex-president's alleged jueteng payola network.

The Estrada camp, through spokesperson Raymund Fortun, had challenged the administration to also charge Pineda, who is a town mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo and had stood as a sponsor at a wedding with her.

Pineda became the subject of a congressional inquiry in 1995 for allegedly running jueteng operations in Central Luzon.

Jose de Jesus, spokesperson for the Ombudsman, said Pineda was now the subject of a fact-finding investigation that was launched after anti-Estrada witnesses in the plunder trial linked him to jueteng.

De Jesus said the investigation was set into motion after the Office of the Special Prosecutor "brought the matter to our attention."

Now on his second week of testifying at the Sandiganbayan, Singson named Pineda and several others as Estrada's payola "collectors" in various provinces.

The others included Estrada's son and co-accused, Jinggoy, who allegedly took over from Jessie Viceo as collector for Bulacan; former presidential adviser Anton Prieto for Bicol; Armand Sanchez for Batangas and Ilocos Norte; Romy Pamatpat for Laguna; Celso de los Angeles, also for Ilocos Norte, and Charing Magbuhos for Cavite.

Pineda had a hand in collection efforts in Nueva Ecija, Bataan, La Union, Pangasinan, Olongapo City and Rizal, said Singson.

Singson said the former tourism undersecretary Orestes Ricaforte —whose wife Yolanda is a co-accused in the plunder case having been identified as Estrada's alleged jueteng payola auditor — also "asked me to arrange jueteng collections" in Iloilo although nothing came of it.

These details came out during cross-examination of Singson by Estrada's court-appointed lawyer Prospero Crescini.

Asked why Pineda in particular had not been impleaded or used as a state witness, Marcelo said: "We have not reached that point yet. Our strategy for now is go for the main participants (in juetengate)."

He said the prosecution thought it better not to implicate everyone tagged by Singson so as to avoid facing difficulties similar to those experienced by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency tasked with the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcelo noted that the PCGG's cases "became complicated" and have dragged on for 15 years largely because the cases were filed against the Marcos family and its cronies all at once.

"They will be investigated later on," he said. "It will be up to the next Ombudsman."

Marcelo said the prosecution team had left it to then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to decide who would constitute the "principal accused" in the Estrada case — and these did not include Pineda.

"Another problem is manpower," said Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio. "We (state prosecutors) are currently undermanned, but we will investigate them in due time."

Perhaps there will be a "second wave" of accused, but entering new names in the case at this stage "might just break our momentum," Villa-Ignacio said.

Defiant Montayre faces assault raps

PHILIPPINE Consultative Assembly secretary general Linda Montayre yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of stifling dissent in the country.

Appearing before a Manila prosecutor to face charges filed against her by police, Montayre said, "This is a desperate move to harass groups opposed to the administration."

The activist leader is accused of physical injuries, direct assault and illegal assembly in connection with the dispersal of her group during an attempted march to Malacañang on July 22.

The PCA was protesting the Balikatan exercises and the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement between the United States and the Philippines.

Also charged were PCA member Nash Pangadapun, who is also spokesperson for Maradeka, a Muslim group advocating independence for Mindanao, and several John Does.

During the dispersal at the corner of A.H. Lacson and Alcantara Streets in Sampaloc, Senior Supt. Rafael Corpuz, Western Police District deputy director for operations, was hit by a rock on the right side of his face.

Montayre denied responsibility for the incident, saying that Corpuz admitted on television he was injured after he stumbled. She said the government was using the incident to destroy the PCA and curb the right to freedom of assembly. ***Jerome Aning***

J. Quesada Jr.; 81

FORMER newspaperman Juan Quesada Jr. died Friday at his Quezon City home at the age of 81.

Quesada served three stints with the pre-martial law Manila Times—first as a Sunday Times Magazine staffer, then (after a year-long stint with The Philippines Herald) promotions director of the Times newspaper chain, and finally as an adviser to the late Don Joaquin "Chino" Roces.

He was best remembered as the author of Operation Quick Count in the 1961 elections.

He was married to the late Dr. Minda Luz Melendez Quesada, a professor at the University of the Philippines and a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

He is survived by their children Augusto, Mari Luz, Bertrand, Emma Rose, Rosanna and Ronaldo, and other relatives.

His body lies at the Funeraria Nacional on Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Aug. 14 after the 9 a.m. mass.

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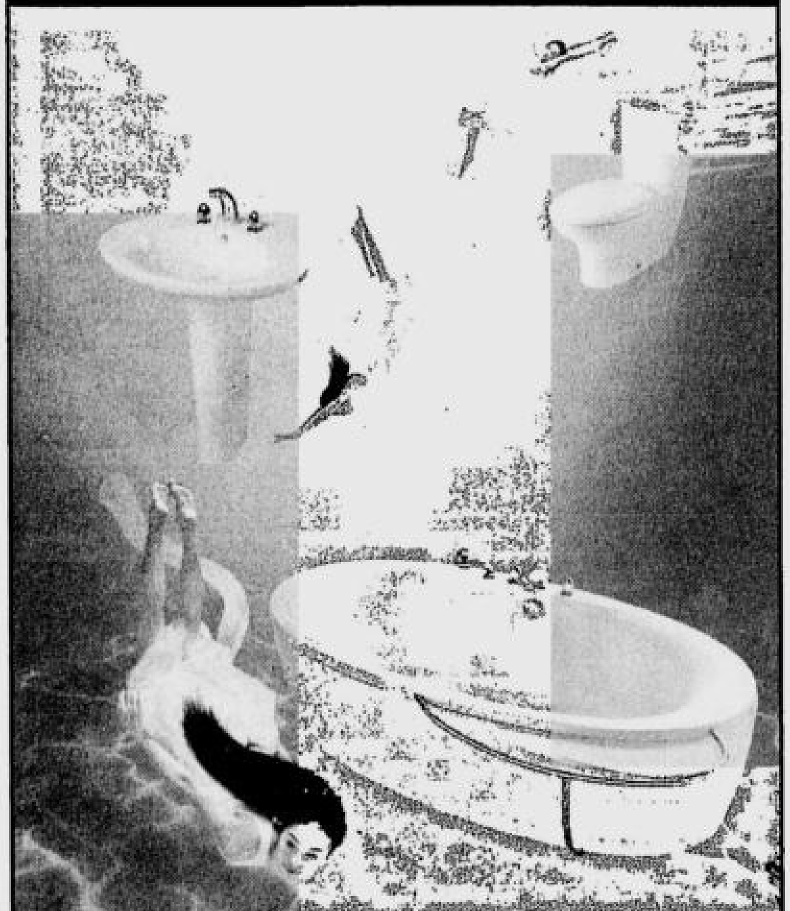

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Good movies

EDITORIAL

IF YOU produce good movies, the fans will come and watch them. This statement has been proved to be true in the ongoing Cinemanila Film Festival. In the past week, cineastes have been flocking to the Greenbelt Theater to watch quality films from some 40 countries.

In the beginning the fans came in trickles, but advertisements (principally in the INQUIRER which is one of the media sponsors) and word-of-mouth advertising spread the word that award-winning movies were being shown in Makati. Then movie fans came by the hundreds. There were nights when additional screenings had to be held at 1 to 3 a.m. to accommodate the cineastes' requests.

This phenomenon belies the common impression that the Filipino audience is *mababaw* (shallow, not too discriminating) and will be contented with just a lot of gratuitous sex and violence in the movies that they watch. This disproves the general thinking that artistically made films, films that make the audience think, films that are different from the run-of-mill will not fare well at the box office.

Among the festival favorites were:

- "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (Mexico), a controversial coming-of-age story which features sex and sociology. It has been viewed variously as a road movie, a picaresque slice of life in Mexico and a tragicomic farce.
- "Central Station" (Brazil), last year's box-office draw which is enjoying a repeat. It is the story of a friendship between a cynical old woman and a boy looking for his father. Their trip becomes a quest for their own identities: the boy's search for his father and the woman's search for her heart.
- "Bread and Tulips" (Italy/Switzerland), the story of a housewife who is accidentally left behind on a sightseeing trip and who somehow gets stranded in Venice and finds true love.
- "Lagaan" (India), a crowd-pleaser of a film about a village that stakes its future of paying tax on a game of cricket against its British rulers. It is a story of the triumph of the human spirit.
- "Peony Pavilion" (China), a story about two women's love for each other, set in a beautiful pavilion in the Suzhou of the 1930s.

Other movies that are worth watching are: "Away from Home" (Turkey), a low-key story about a man who would like to return to his roots and his nephew who would like to leave and settle in the United States;

"The Man Who Wasn't There" United States, the story of a barber who tries to escape a humdrum life and gets trapped in something that he didn't bargain for. Somehow Heisenberg's uncertainty theory gets into the discussion;

"Whispering Sands," an Indonesian film with a Japanese flavor. It tells the story of a possessive mother and her daughter who is searching for her soul;

"6ixtynin9" (Thailand), where two apartments—one number 6 and another 9—figure in a gory tale of mystery, violence and murder;

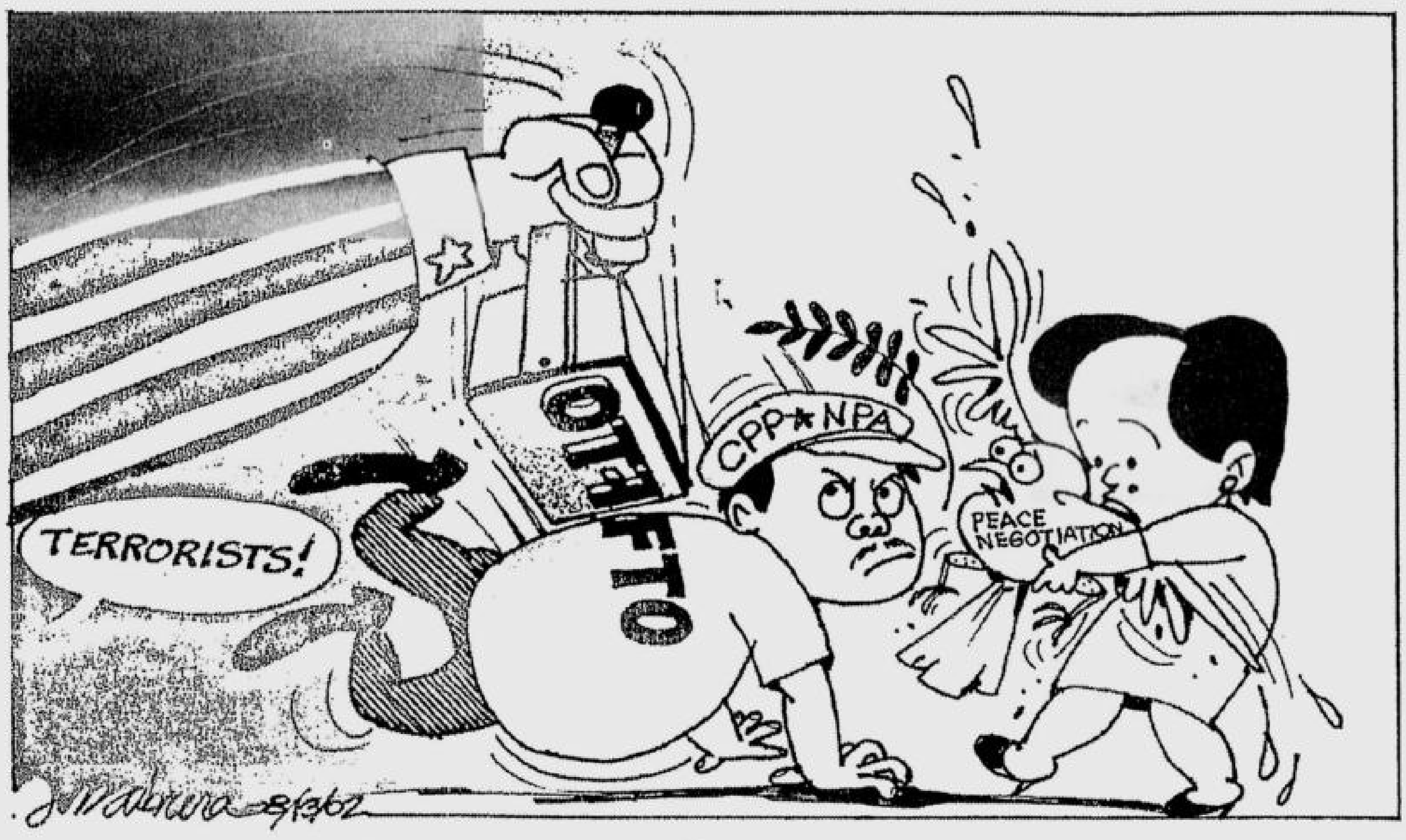
"Hana-Bi" (Japan), a story about a taciturn retired detective who does everything to please his wife who is dying of cancer. The last poetic, lyrical scene alone, set on a beach, is enough reason to watch this film.

These are films that not only entertain but also make the audience think; they are also films that elevate the human spirit.

Some directors, scriptwriters and other people engaged in filmmaking were among the regulars at the film festival. This is good for the local movie industry. They could get fresh ideas and new insights into filmmaking from the diverse films that they are watching in the festival.

This is not to say that there are no creative souls in the Filipino movie industry. There are many of them. The festival features 20 Filipino films and documentaries, including Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan," Joel Lamangan's "Hubog" and Lav Diaz's "Batang West Side." It also pays tribute to Mike de Leon by showing some of his films such as "Itim," "Kisapmata" and "Bayaning Third World."

There is no lack of talent and creativity in the local movie industry, but the problem is that producers want to make a fast buck and so they turn out sex and violence flicks and corny romances. The Cinemanila experience should show them that quality films enjoy a sizable audience. If you produce good films the audience will come.



A miscarriage of justice in the SC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SUPREME Court is widely known as the last bulwark of justice. People who don't get justice in the lower courts can go up to the Supreme Court to finally get justice. Its justices are supposed to be incorruptible men of integrity whose only goal is to give justice to every man. But justices are only human. They also commit mistakes. Sometimes, the Supreme Court itself dispenses injustice.

But unlike ordinary mortals, the justices have been given by their lofty standing in society more than their share of pride, the first cardinal sin. Justices don't want to admit making mistakes, and they would rather play blind to miscarriages of justice than reverse their decisions.

The Court is also the main culprit behind the delay in the administration of justice for which the Philippines is notorious. Lower courts have deadlines (imposed by the Court) to decide submitted cases but the Court itself has none. Some cases can take 10 or 20 years, or more, to decide.

Here is a case of a possible miscarriage of justice that has been in the judicial system for almost 20 years.

Damaso F. Flores had a lease on the Parañaque Cockpit Stadium. He used this lease rights as collateral for a P4-million loan from Rolando R. Ligon. He was able to pay most of the loan except for P1.6 million. He was still paying this balance, including interests, when Flores and Ligon had a disagreement over the computation of the interests. Ligon tried to foreclose on the mortgage: the lease rights to the cockpit stadium.

To make a long story short, there were court battles going all the way up to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Twice, Flores won in the Court of Appeals, affirmed by the Supreme Court. These decisions have become final and executory.

But instead of enjoying the fruit of his two victories (the return of the cockpit to him) Flores was forcibly dispossessed of his home, which is not involved in the litigation and is exempt from execution under the Family Code and the Rules of Court. On Nov. 22, 2002, he was even cited for contempt of court and imposed a fine of P5,000 payable within 10 days from notice, or a penalty of imprisonment for five days if the fine was not paid within the prescribed period.

What happened? Why the turnabout? Read carefully and you will see not only how the wheels of justice can grind slowly but also how they can go the wrong way.

On Sept. 19, 1986, the Court of Appeals nullified a special order of the trial courts dated May 22, 1986 and ordered Ligon to return or surrender possession of the cockpit to Flores. This decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court and became final and executory on March 25, 1988.

On Aug. 9, 1988, the Court of Appeals remanded the case to the lower court for accounting of the income derived by Ligon from the operation of the cockpit from May 22, 1986 until it is returned to Flores, said income to be credited to Flores' obligation of P1,619,700 and the excess, if any, to be paid by Ligon to Flores. This decision was also affirmed by the Supreme Court and became final and executory on Nov. 15, 1989.

But such are the labyrinthine ways of our judicial system that since April 13, 1988, when the records were remanded to the lower court "for execution of judgment," the cockpit was not returned to Flores despite four writs of execution. Ligon was able to get one TRO (temporary restraining order) after another.

But Flores' right to possess the cockpit was repeatedly upheld by the CA and the SC when the six petitions by Ligon were dismissed and the six TROs were lifted.

Suddenly, when the TROs were exhausted, the presiding judge ordered the sheriff on Feb. 16, 1990 not to enforce the writ of execution. The trial court then stayed and recalled the same. On Dec. 10, 1990, the judge concluded that Ligon did not earn any income from the cockpit operations from 1986 to 1989 which could be credited to Flores' obligation. He ordered the issuance of a writ of execution against Flores, ironically the winner in the two final judgments before the trial court.

The compromise agreement was disregarded and Flores' residence was sold by the sheriffs of Quezon City in an alleged public auction in Pasay City on March 11, 1997.

Flores filed a petition for review with the appellate court and the Supreme Court. The second division gave due course to GR No. 97566 on Aug. 26, 1991 and to GR No. 101152 on Feb. 26, 1992.

But surprise, surprise, almost five years later, the First Division dismissed the consolidated petitions, ruling that Ligon's purchase of the cockpit on April 18, 1986 "is a supervening event that rendered unenforceable the decision in CA-GR SP No. 19061."

This decision is obviously erroneous because a "supervening" event that can make unenforceable a final and executory judgment must have happened **after** the decision became final and executory. The decision in CA-GR SP No. 19061 became final and executory on March 25, 1988. Ligon purchased the cockpit on April 18, 1986, **before** the final and executory decision. So it cannot be a "supervening event."

Flores filed one pleading after another with the Supreme Court assailing this erroneous decision. He has filed a total of 29 pleadings but the Court merely dismissed each one with a curt "Noted without Action" or "Expunged from the Records." The Court is obviously trying to avoid facing the issue which is very simple: Is April 18, 1986 before or after March 25, 1988.

Flores has written letters to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. who is the chair of the First Division. All he is asking is for the Court—the First Division or en banc—to decide the issue on the merits and not to dismiss his petitions.

Mr. Chief Justice, give the poor man justice. Show that the highest court of the land is not ashamed to admit a mistake and do what is right.

More postscripts to iniquities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo has a variation on the President's "If you are not with me, you are for the Abu Sayyaf." It is, "If you are not with her, you are for the communists."

That at least is what he implied when he upbraided Vice President Teofisto Guingona for expressing a different view of foreign policy, one that was not foreign to us. In a speech, Guingona criticized the American first-strike policy against Iraq, the country's all-out support for the American "war against terror," and GMA's declaration of war against the New People's Army. Guingona had his reasons for them, but the First Gentleman wasn't interested. He opined not very gently in a TV interview that Guingona's "constituency are the communists."

I said before that GMA was openly recruiting for the Abu Sayyaf when she said that either Filipinos were for her or they were for the Abu Sayyaf. I say now that Mike Arroyo is openly recruiting for the communists when he says that either Filipinos are for their (very) foreign policy or they are for the communists. The choice isn't improved in their favor by being put in terms of God and Mike Arroyo, on one hand, and the devil and Teofisto Guingona, on the other. That could [illegible] into a nation of devil worshipers.

But if you recall Mr. First Gentleman, you were nowhere to be found several years ago when Guingona rose on the floor of the Senate to disagree with another president. He was still a senator then, and the president was one Joseph Estrada. Guingona so disagreed with Estrada that he called for his impeachment, the first public official to do so. I do not recall you saying that that dissent made Guingona "left-leaning," or the senator only of communists. Erap himself did not say Guingona leaned toward the left, he said Guingona leaned too far out he had fallen off the ledge, and suggested he was the senator only of madmen. As it turned out, the whole nation was mad.

In fact, I do not recall you saying anything at all. Where you were at the time, only you can say. You might have been in the cockpit, or shopping in San Francisco (where by the way I spotted you doing so last year). But you said nothing. Neither did your wife, who was the Vice President at the time, whom everyone expected to stand up to a thug in presidential robes. Neither did your wife, the President now, who became so because of what Guingona did. Maybe you applauded the senator's initiative in private, knowing who stood to benefit most from it. Maybe you did not, also in private, fearing the wrath of a very popular President who had just been pissed off. We will never know because you did everything in private. The habit of saying nothing, particularly in the face of iniquity, seems a conjugal one. Though the habit of hurling insults at wolves from the safety of a rooftop, which Aesop tells us about, seems more exclusively yours.

But you keep assigning the way Guingona comports himself as a public figure to communist tendencies and the way you comport yourself as presidential spouse to non-communist ones, and you will single-handedly resurrect, brick by brick, the Berlin Wall. Never has anyone given communism a better name.

* * *

I suppose by this time the women's groups would have had a lot to say about it. "It" is the breathtaking defense put up by Johnson Robert Go to Mariquit Soriano's complaint against him and Eric Severino to the labor department. Soriano claims Go and Severino made sexual advances toward her, and that after spurning them, they conspired to have her dismissed from her job. She was director of marketing and communications of Digitel, where Go is chief operating officer, when this happened.

"She must be hallucinating to come up with these allegations, taking into consideration her advanced age," says Go. Further: "Untruthful, absurd, and impossible from a 49-year-old grandmother." And still further: "The allegation that both Eric Severino and I committed acts of lasciviousness against her, as if we were competing with each other for her affection, is impossible."

If not for these words, I might have sympathized completely with Lance Gokongwei when he says the timing of this issue is curious. It comes just when the Gokongweis (Go is John Gokongwei's brother) are locked in a dispute with PLDT. Maybe the people at PLDT had a hand in it, but that doesn't mean Soriano is not telling the truth. With Go's own words to go by, I am now completely convinced she is telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Go's remarks reflect the classic mentality of a sexual harasser. They ooze with all the macho stereotypes about women. One of them is that women lose their attractiveness as they grow old, men do not. Men remain, decrepit or not, as desirable as ever, particularly when they have money and power.

Another is that mature women do not deserve the attentions of men, or those claiming to have any taste, and may not be believed when they complain about getting the unwanted variety of them. Still another is that mature women are really desperate for men's attention to prove to themselves they are still attractive, and again may not be believed when they complain of unwanted attentions. Still another is that mature women should really be flattered when they do get attention, unwanted or not. Still another is that sexual harassment, like rape, is really about the relative attractiveness of the victim and not about the absolute arrogance of the harasser, or rapist, and his need to assert his power.

That is the profile of a harasser, someone who thinks that way. If Go had pleaded guilty to Soriano's charge, he could not have damned himself more.

JDV warned Joma re FTO a year ago

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CALL it uncanny prescience, but Speaker Jose de Venecia anticipated the inclusion by the US government of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army in the US list of "foreign terrorist organizations" (FTO) a full year before it happened. I recall that during the Christian Democrat International conference in Mexico City late last year, De Venecia spoke on the phone with CPP/NDF chair Jose Ma. Sison in their native Pangasinense to warn him about the need to get back to the negotiating table with the government, least Joma's group gets blacklisted as a FTO. If that happens, warned JDV, it could bring enormous complications for you. His warning came just weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

* * *

I recently recalled to the Speaker his phone call to Joma and he said that a week after that, he took along presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita, PMA Secretary Silvestre Afable and Silvestre Bello, the chief government negotiator with the NDF, to Utrecht where they met with Sison and Luis Jalandoni. The group then travelled to Norway whose prime minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik, a Christian Democrat, urged Sison to get into the final phase of the negotiations that were held, until their interruption, in Oslo. The final phase includes the cessation of hostilities and demobilization of forces, and the CPP's participation in political exercises.

Recently, said Joe de V., Norway and the Netherlands have reiterated this advice to Sison, pointing out that various communist parties in Europe have discarded their red guards and joined the political mainstream. One might add that this is true even of communist parties in Asia which have abandoned the ways of violence and joined the political ring.

* * *

Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation, the oldest NGO dedicated to the welfare of soldiers and their dependents, has teamed up with the Manila Jockey Club (MJC), Asia's oldest jockey club, to hold the First ASK Racing Festival this Aug. 21 to 25 at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. The festival's objective is to raise funds for ASK's benefit programs for the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in action and families of permanently incapacitated soldiers. Last Friday evening, the festival was formally announced at the Manila Golf & Country Club, with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who consented to chair the organizing committee, as guest of honor. A memorandum of agreement was signed between MJC president Alfonso Reyno, Jr. and ASK chair Edgardo B. Espiritu on this festival, a brainchild of Reyno.

* * *

Since ASK was formed in 1986 by a group of professionals, including this columnist, it has assisted over 1,300 families of slain soldiers and close to 300 families of permanently disabled soldiers. But it has to keep raising funds to finance the aid package, the USO-type fellowship at brigade and battalion level, and the livelihood programs. A fourth program of ASK is its distance-education scholarship for soldiers and their dependents, in cooperation with College Assurance Plan. Started in 1997, this program has already graduated 36 scholars, including widows of soldiers killed in action, in courses like journalism, business management and information technology. This school year we have 184 soldiers and dependents enrolled with CAP.

* * *

Defense Secretary Reyes has been tied up with ASK since he was a lieutenant colonel in Mindanao some years back, pushing socio-civic projects. As he rose through the ranks, his support for ASK's programs was unstinting. Last Friday evening, he squeezed the press conference into his schedule although despite his preparing for his trip to the US the following evening for meetings with US Defense Secretary Chief Donald Rumsfeld, where they were supposed to take up, among other things, the details of the $30 million promised by Secretary of State Colin Powell in his recent visit to Manila as part of the $55-million counter-terrorism package for the Philippines.

I asked Reyes about the signing of the Mutual Logistics Supply Agreement. He replied, "The US has its timetable on that one and so do we." At the moment it is not part of the agenda.

As we accompanied Reyes to his car, he showed us a book that he'll be reading on the flight to Washington, titled "The Rumsfeld Way," by Jeffrey Kramer. "As you can see, I like to know the person I'm dealing with," he said.

* * *

Tidbits:

• Stop Trafficking of Pilipinos Foundation (STOP), led by Tita Pilapil Reverente, and the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography, led by Aldo Filomeno, will file a case against another pornographic tabloid (its first case was against "Bosero" last May) tomorrow, Aug. 14, with the Manila prosecutor's office. Lawyer Lorna Kapunan, STOP president, will handle the case. The filing will be preceded by a 9 a. m. Mass at St. Vincent Church in San Marcelino, Manila, followed by a march to Manila City Hall and a prayer assembly.

• For those who have failed to see the roving exhibit on the life and work of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, the founder of Opus Dei who will be canonized in Rome on Oct. 6, 2002, here's your chance to view it. Catch the exhibit at SM South Mall in Alabang/Zapote all week this week until Sunday, Aug. 18.

• The Filipino adaptation of "The Fantasticks," titled "Sinta," will be staged at the Dulaang Sibol Theater of the Ateneo High School in Quezon City on Aug. 15, Aug. 16 and Aug. 23, at 6:30 p.m. Director Onofre Pagsanghan is inviting everyone to watch it.

Kiss anti-corruption drive goodbye

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PRESIDENT GMA might as well kiss her anti-corruption campaign goodbye. Her treatment of Acsa Ramirez, the Land Bank of the Philippines cashier who blew the whistle on colleagues involved in a tax scam, sent an unmistakable signal to future informers.

And the message is: You expose the truth at your own risk.

Of course, the President and National Bureau Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco now say that Ramirez had been "implicated" by other suspects in the case. Well, of course, the LandBank officials now under investigation would seek to take her down with them. But that's why the NBI's involved—isn't it?—to ascertain the facts.

In going after corrupt government officials and employees, governments the world over have to rely on that rare animal: the civil servant who, witnessing wrongdoing, chooses not just to stay away from it but vows to expose it by feeding information to superiors. But if a whistleblower like Ramirez is instead treated like a criminal by the President, what hope is there of finding any more like-minded bureaucrats like her? If, by telling the truth, you are harassed and hounded and publicly embarrassed, then what's the use of fighting the culture of corruption? Only the corrupt, it seems, are rewarded.

* * *

DENNIS da Silva may have felt unfairly singled out by the media after his live-in partner's daughter accused him of raping her and getting her pregnant. If he wasn't a former teen star (albeit decidedly minor league), whose only claim to fame is that he was once Ruffa Gutierrez's boyfriend, after all, the young woman's charges would not have merited even a mention in the tabloids, much less a place on prime-time news and even an appearance on showbiz talk shows.

Sad but true. Accounts of young women seduced, molested or raped by their male relatives or male father-figures have become all-too-common they're no longer the stuff of headlines. Incest has gone from the unspeakable secret it was, say, a decade ago, to a crime reported with such frequency it no longer has the power to shock or even scandalize.

Maybe that's why the former actor had the temerity to claim that "she was asking for it," not even trying to deny that he had sexual relations with a 14-year-old. His excuse? She seduced him, and "you know how it is with men, when something is offered to us, how can we refuse?"

But Dolores Mose, writing in behalf of the Women's Legal Education Advocacy and Defense (WomenLead) Foundation, dares prick Da Silva's balloon by asking: "What is a 29-year-old, supposed to be grown-up man, doing with a 14-year-old child?"

"The complainant is... a minor who is supposed to be in the care of adults, not taken advantage of by a stepfather, even if he is only the live-in partner of the child's mother (and) not exempt from the responsibility of ensuring the child's welfare," Mose points out.

* * *

THE LATEST I've heard is that Da Silva has been released from custody allegedly because there are not enough grounds to hold him.

I'm sorry I'm no lawyer, but it seems clear that the girl is pregnant, and Da Silva himself admits that he had sexual relations with her. At 14, she is still legally a minor. Under the law, an adult who has sex with a minor, even consensual sex, can still be charged with statutory rape.

Even if Da Silva claims the girl consented to have sex with him, points out Mose, "we should scrutinize the kind of consent... a 14-year-old child (is capable of giving). Da Silva and the child are not exactly equals: he has power and authority over the child, he is twice her age, and he is the partner of her mother. She could have been misinformed, influenced, dictated upon, threatened, and forced to give her consent."

I would add that even if the girl were older, Da Silva still crossed a moral line, if not the bounds of decency, when he had sex with the child of his live-in partner. That is still incest, even if the girl is not the issue of his loins and there is no legal relationship binding him to the mother. The live-in relationship made him the girl's father-figure, at least. As such, he enjoyed the girl's trust and respect, trust and respect he abused and exploited for the basest of reasons.

* * *

THERE is a reason women's groups fought so long and so hard to have rape re-classified from a crime against chastity and a personal crime, to a crime against persons, and thus a public crime.

Too often, when a woman accused a man of raping her, the accused would marshal all of his resources—financial, social, political—to convince the woman and her family to drop the case. And given our social setting, where families put a premium on "saving face" and keeping the family's honor intact, parents would often pressure a survivor to withdraw her charges, since rape inflicts a stigma not so much on the perpetrator as on the victim.

When rape was still a personal crime, the case would indeed be dropped once the complainant filed an affidavit of desistance. But with rape now re-classified as a public crime, it now becomes a crime committed against the "People of the Philippines." Even without the cooperation of the original complainant, police and persecutors are still obliged to proceed with the filing of charges and the commencement of a trial should there be enough grounds for it.

By opening his big fat mouth and admitting that indeed he had sex with a 14-year-old, Da Silva may have given prosecutors enough grounds to file a case of statutory rape against him. I look forward to seeing footage of his re-arrest very soon.

Sariaya revisited

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IF you're like me, your curiosity would be aroused by unresolved situations/mysteries such as: what happened to part two of Col. Manuel Sityar's memoirs covering Gen. Antonio Luna's assassination or whose was the sword that was located at the foot of the Dolorosa in Tayabas, or the whereabouts of the antique oil painting of Fr. Felix Huertas that survived the World War II and once hung in Monte de Piedad. Sometimes these questions are laid to rest, but quite often we have to accept the possibility that we will never know the answers.

For a columnist delving into moth-eaten documents and moss-riddled pages of old books to gather information, it's always a pleasure when a reader responds. We received a letter from Eric Dedace, a member of the Sariaya Quadri-centennial Foundation who wrote to tell us that "the venerated crucifix you wrote about is actually the image of the Santo Cristo de Burgos enshrined behind the church altar, said to be the only one of its kind in the country. When the town was still at its third site at Lumangbayan, the Franciscan friars petitioned the King of Spain, Philip V, for a replica of the original crucified Christ in Burgos, Spain, said to have been used by El Cid Campeador in his fight against the Moors in the 11th century, perhaps in association with their own community's struggles against the Muslim pirates. Their wish was granted and the Cristo de Burgos replica came to be there until the disastrous earthquake of 1743 and the resulting killer floods due to the collapse of the southwest portion of a mountain lake that was on Mt. Banahaw during those times, that destroyed the church and the town which necessitated its transfer..."

Dedace continued:

"Moreover, folk legend handed over for more than 259 years now had it that after the 1743 earthquake, the pillaging Moros came and once again burned the church and the town and the people fled to Mt. Banahaw's slopes. Returning... the survivors found the Cristo de Burgos still intact amid the charred ruins which they regarded as a miracle... it was wrapped in white cloth and carried by able-bodied men northwards to higher ground. After resting for a while, the menfolk tried to lift the icon to resume their journey but it became too heavy to carry so the people took it as a sign that the new church should be built at that very spot and so Sariaya came to being amidst another 'miracle' which they say continues to this day...

"[T]he romantic legend... survives care of a Friday pilgrimage to the Santo Cristo de Burgos by devotees even from other places wherein Masses are said in the church. This traditional devotion and belief in its so-called miracles has led to the paradox of the town fiesta being celebrated on its feast day, Sept. 14, instead of Oct. 4th, the feast day of Sariaya's acknowledged patron St. Francis of Assisi."

The readers' question about what happened to the candidates in the election of 1875 was answered by Dedace, who tells us that "Don Agapito de Gala won the position of Sariaya's *gobernadorcillo* in 1875 for the second time, an elective post that he held from 1874 to 1876, while Fr. Juan Francisco Villon served as the *cura parroco* from August 1874 to July 1876." Don Agapito was replaced by Don Lucio Rodriguez, who was still *gobernadorcillo* when the noted French scientist Antoine Alfred Marche visited Sariaya in 1880.

There is a move to encourage local governments to initiate studies of local histories, traditions and customs in order to preserve them and to generate an appreciation for them among the people. Information such as Dedace's saying that the location of Sariaya was changed four times due to natural calamities and Muslim pirate raids is important to get a sense of a town's heritage. Wrote Dedace: "From Barangay Castaños along the Tayabas Bay coastline where the Franciscan missionaries arrived and said Mass on Oct. 4, 1599, the town moved northwards and inland to Barangay Bucal in 1641, Barangay Tumbaga or Lumanbayan in 1703, and eventually to its present location in 1743 now called Sariaya. The church ruins in both the Bucal and Lumangbayan town sites can still be seen."

We are also informed that for the visitors come to the Agawan fiesta of San Isidro Labrador, their third patron on May 15 (or for the town fiesta on Sept. 14 or the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4) there are various attractions, among them: the 259-year-old church, the image of the Sto. Cristo, colorful Banahaw folklore, their "*puwersado sa rekado*" cuisine and exquisite desserts, their coastline... the famous bakery products and sweets and the ancestral homes that remain from Sariaya's golden coconut era that made it famous as 'the town of palatial houses.' And of course to hear the distinctive Tagalog of Sariaya that is "a blend of the Lagunense lilt with that very pronounced Batangueño tone."

It is also encouraging to know that Sariaya's Quadri-centennial Foundation is at the forefront of "the painstaking, thankless yet fulfilling self-appointed task of reviving interest in local history and socio-cultural heritage." In this regard, the group has published an updated and more comprehensive history, "Likas Sariaya," and established a town museum in a 1703 ancestral home. We thank Mr. Dedace for the *estampita* Sto. Cristo de Burgos with "a prayer which has guided the Quadro" in their task of ensuring the continuation of their heritage. More power to them.

Confessions of a vegetarian

YOUNG BLOOD

Malou I. Redome

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

LAST night my parents went ballistic. My mother was scolding me at the top of her voice and our neighbors living as far as 50 meters away from our house could hear her. And my father only added fuel to the fire. I wouldn't blame our neighbors if they thought that I was a rebellious daughter and a no-good K.S.P (*kulang sa pansin*).

The reason for their outburst was food. They were afraid that I had some kind of malady—anorexia nervosa, perhaps.

When they told me that, I had rolled my eyes and patiently explained, "Nay, Tay, I'm a vegetarian so I can't eat the food you are eating." But they insisted that I was not receiving enough vitamins and minerals.

There were times in the past when they told me, "*Anak*, we're worried that you're becoming an ascetic. We must do something against it. Where did you get such philosophy of life? Mother Teresa? Gautama Buddha? Gandhi?"

Parents! Sometimes they just drive us crazy with their weird reasoning and conclusions.

But no amount of persuasion can make me switch back to eating "normally." Even if my parents call me a walking skeleton all the time I will still cling to my beliefs.

My concern for living organisms probably started during my early grade school years. I was in grade 3 when we had this *adobo* cooking experiment. I was assigned by the teacher to cook the chicken. The moment I put the pan on the stove, I saw blood coming out of the flesh of the wrinkled chicken skin. I immediately took the chicken out of the pan and let it dry. I thought it would bring the chicken back to life.

For one whole week after that, I didn't eat any kind of meat—much to my mother's consternation. But after so much promptings, my defense broke down when I smelled the sweet aroma of roast beef and my eating habits were back to normal.

Earlier in my childhood, I also chased chickens together with the other children in our neighborhood. One time when we caught a small chicken, we burned it in a pile of wood. My other playmates simply stared at me, when I told them to stop after hearing the chick making some pitiful sounds. When I started screaming, they stopped and proceeded to eat the broiled chicken.

In high school, I started reading books about violence and war brought about by greed and selfishness. I was touched by the experiences of the victims. Then I told myself that in order to attain the peace I wanted, I must never eat meat. I promised that in my own little way I would try to promote peace and harmony in the world.

Being a vegetarian at this early stage of my life is quite hard. Especially since everybody else in our house eats meat. There is a clash of food preferences between me and the rest of our family. And this is the cause of frequent petty quarrels between my parents and myself, which sometimes ends with my allowance for the weeks being cut to a minimum.

My parents who must be hedonists encourage me to enjoy life while I can. They are sick and tired of my being a vegetarian. Once they tricked me into eating a dish of minced bacon and meat. I didn't know it was meat, but when I had finished eating, one of my siblings told me.

I vomited. For me, it was the gloomiest day of my life. For one whole week I didn't speak to my parents because I felt betrayed.

There are days when my mother forgets that I am on a special diet. She cooks foods, which even my hungry stomach cannot digest. I'm left to survive on my own.

But I have planted a variety of vegetables in our backyard, and I am a good cook, too. So I can prepare for myself a sumptuous vegetarian meal.

My parents are really bent on putting an end to my "*kaartehan*." They get really pissed off when they see me munching a cabbage or carrots.

During the first months after I turned vegetarian, they never bought any vegetables for my meals. I had to cook *pancit canton* for myself. *Pancit canton* has always saved me from hunger and sleeping on an empty stomach.

It has been two years since I began to practice vegetarianism. I believe I have survived the crucial stage of being misunderstood and criticized by others. But I know this is not the end of it. Many people and circumstances will come my way to test my self-control and discipline.

To me few sounds can be more unnerving than the cries of pigs and cows that are being slaughtered. I can't begin to imagine the pain they endure after they are stabbed with a cruel knife.

I believe that animals, just like human beings, have the right to live and enjoy every passing minute of their stay here on earth. Animals don't deserve to be fed to greedy, gluttonous people around the world.

I do not want to preach. I'm simply stating what I feel. I know that God gave us animals to make our work easier, to help us in our endless toil.

My parents, siblings, teachers, classmates, friends and relatives think that my being a vegetarian is a crippling handicap. The only food I can eat at home is unadulterated vegetables and foods that contain no meat. On school days I have to bring my own lunch because the cafeteria does not offer my kind of food. When my family goes out on weekends to celebrate something in a restaurant, I am forced to eat the tasteless uncooked vegetables accompanying the main dish.

I decline most invitations to birthday parties, dinner parties, fiestas or simple meals at a friend's house because I know that I am not likely to find my kind of food. I don't want to tell them that their foods are unappealing. Even pasta, spaghetti and macaroni have meat in them. What am I supposed to eat?

When people learn that I am a vegetarian, they raise their eyebrows. When they ask why, I tell them I can't enjoy biting into some natural living organisms which can bite me back. But the truth is, I don't want to chew cadavers. I believe that eating meat is against the ethical concept of nonviolence. And many of the Hindus will agree with me.

Nowadays it's becoming a trend to shun meat, especially in the First-World countries. A growing number of fashion-conscious teenagers are into vegetarianism. Having a trim waist and the looks of Cameron Diaz are their goals. Well, I do have a nice waist, so is anyone interested in hiring me as a model?

Definitely it doesn't hurt to be health conscious. It has scientifically proven that vegetarians have lower morbidity and mortality rates from several degenerative diseases.

A century ago Henry David Thoreau said that human race in its wish for gradual improvement should stop eating meat! Will McDonald's please create a McPotato?

Malou I. Redome, 16, is a high school senior at the Assumption-Iloilo.

Banks shouldn't collect taxes

IT is not enough that the government goes after bank officials and employees who misappropriate tax money. It must stop the system of tax payment through banks which has deprived it of hundreds of millions, perhaps billions, of pesos in tax revenue. This system was adopted by the Marcos administration at the beginning of martial law to enable the bankers to use the money and earn interest from it.

Since the Commonwealth period, national internal revenue taxes were paid directly to the Bureau of Treasury. Admittedly, under this practice, hundreds of thousands of pesos were lost through individual cases of misappropriation by government tellers. But the tellers, who were bonded, were easily caught before they could steal millions. The tellers had to deposit the tax payments, whether in checks or in cash, to the bureau at the end of the day. Thus it had a steady stream of tax money to disburse, without the interruption caused by the money being used initially by the banks for lending purposes. The bureau did not encounter gaps in liquidity, unlike today when it is forced to borrow its own money from the banks which collect interest on the money, coming and going. Oftentimes banks delay the remittance of tax money to the treasury to earn more interest. Theft of tax money is among the causes of today's ruinous budgetary deficits.

When the banks took over the collection of taxes, the tax revenue lost reached hundreds of millions or even billions of pesos. The temptation to steal millions of tax money is too great for bank officials.

During the Marcos administration, a number of banks were found to have misappropriated hundreds of millions of pesos in tax revenues. Some of these banks closed and the government was not able to recover a single centavo.

The recent case involving a BIR official who diverted P200 million in tax payments to her own account could not have happened if taxes were paid directly to the Bureau of Treasury. Because tax payments involve hundreds of thousands of transactions, it is difficult for the government to track them down unless somebody, an insider or a taxpayer, blows the whistle.

Tax collection is a sovereign act. To allow banks, run for private profit, to collect taxes is to surrender to private individuals the sovereign act of collecting and using tax money.

Now there is talk of "privatizing" the BIR, wherein internal revenue taxes will be assessed and collected by a private corporation. If this happens, the state will be committing suicide. After all taxes are the "lifeblood of the nation." They come from the blood and sweat of our people. Instead of having a "strong Republic" we will have a "dead Republic."

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
60 Road 3, Proj. 6, QC

Expats in Ondeo have work permits

WE write on behalf of our client Ondeo Philippines concerning the column of Neal H. Cruz last Aug. 9, 2002, accusing several expatriate employees of Ondeo Philippines of working in without the necessary work permits thereby violating Philippine law. He further implied that these foreign employees failed to pay income taxes.

Ondeo Philippines resents the accusations made by Cruz because they discredit Ondeo Philippines through false information. Ondeo Philippines has been in the country for five years now and has always maintained its good corporate standing, a policy the Ondeo Group of Companies strictly adheres to in more than 30 countries where it is currently operating. As a foreign investor in this country, Ondeo Philippines is aggrieved by the baseless accusations of Cruz.

All the expatriate personnel Of Ondeo Philippines applied and have been granted the necessary work permits and are regularly paying the required taxes in accordance with Philippine law.

Contrary to Cruz's article, not all those who were named in his article are French nationals. With the exception of Krieg, Beatrix, Tilley, Langlet and Schock, all other expatriate employees have completed their terms of office and have returned to their respective countries.

—NATIVIDAD B. KWAN

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I once knew a Filipina

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NOTICE how the word "caregivers" keeps coming up now? It's a term used to refer to a range of work, mainly caring for the sick, the very young and the elderly. The worker can be a nursing assistant in a hospital or a full-time nanny in a home. The two Filipinas killed in Israel by a suicide bomber the other week were caregivers, hired by Israeli families to take care of an elderly relative.

The caregivers are different from health professionals, such as physicians and nurses, who take a number of years to train. Caregivers are accredited through short-term courses, ranging from six months to a year, conducted by local institutions before the caregivers can be deployed to work overseas.

I was just thinking about how Filipinos seem to be particularly suited for caregiving. In the past, we've already become known for our physicians and nurses. Now it's also for caregiving.

It's not just a proficiency with English that gives us an edge. There's a cultural element as well that makes our caregivers different. My mother hired Cantonese amahs from Hong Kong to help take care of me but she doesn't have pleasant memories of those amahs. They were very efficient, she says, but they were also tough and distant, even cold.

Today, it's Filipinas who have to go to Hong Kong to care for children, and the elderly. But their caregiving style is very different from the Cantonese amahs. In fact, I wonder if maybe the Filipinas, through their care of children, are changing Hong Kong's culture. I see some of that in the way Hong Kong's kids now speak English, a curious blend of the British and Chinese, plus Ilokano or Tagalog or Cebuano accents, depending on where the nanny comes from.

But there's more to the change than in accents. I am sure our caregivers hum Filipino tunes to the children, tell them stories about the *aswang* and cook *adobo*.

More importantly, our Filipino caregivers won't think twice about sitting on the floor to play with the kids, or climb a slide in a playground, or boogie away with the kids in the living room.

It's this ebullience, this love of life that makes our caregiving so different, and which touches the lives of so many people.

Last week "I-Witness" had a superb documentary on Filipino overseas workers returning to the Philippines. One of those featured, Mercy Elegado, had worked in Hong Kong for several years caring for one family's children. "I-Witness" captured many poignant parting scenes, including the youngest child, inconsolable, clinging to his caregiver and sobbing his heart out.

Last Saturday's INQUIRER also carried on its front page a photograph of a little Israeli boy touching the coffin of Adelina Cunanan, one of the Filipinas killed in the suicide bombing. He and other members of his family were saying goodbye to Cunanan before her remains were flown home. Her employer had described her as a woman with a golden heart.

Not all these stories have sad or tearful endings. On planes and in international meetings, people's faces light up when they find out I'm Filipino as they tell me a "I once knew a Filipina" story.

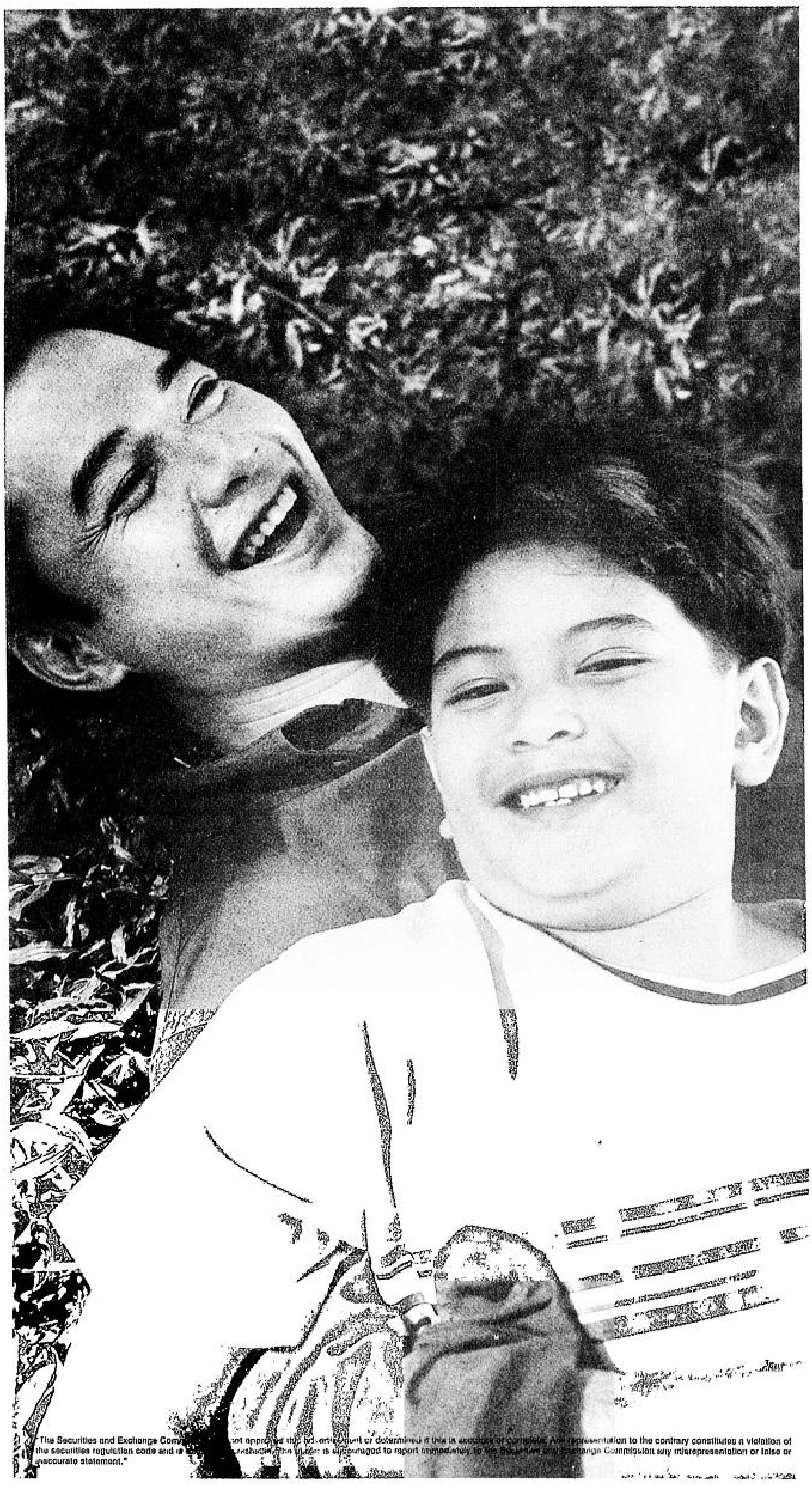
It's stories about the nurses who "practically tiptoe and never tire of asking what you need." And it's stories, too, of a neighbor, a Pinay nanny, for example, whose laughter would ring out, bringing cheer on a dreary winter day. People are always impressed, knowing how difficult the lives are of these Filipinas, having to care for other people's families even as they left their own behind.

I know we all have mixed feelings about seeing so many Filipinas leaving. But I suspect that even in better times, when we won't be as financially needy, we'll still have Filipinos leaving to work as caregivers and health professionals. We see it even today. I think of two friends: Cecilio, a doctor working in a tuberculosis program in Uzbekistan, and Myrna, working with Afghan refugees in Nauru.

Caregiving. For Filipinos, it's more than just another job.

* * *

Comments at miguel@pinoykasi.net



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TAX/DUTY SHORTFALLS, DIVERSIONS AND DELAYS/NON-REMITTANCES

Hitting Three Birds With One Stone

By: Rep. Tet Garcia (2nd District of Bataan)

The shortfalls in the collection of taxes/duties, diversions and delays/non-remittances by unscrupulous authorized agent banks (AABs) of their tax/duty collections could easily exceed P100 billion annually. These problems have persisted since the early eighties, immediately after the present system of collecting taxes and duties through banks was instituted.

We have been proposing since the time of President Estrada, and again on June 26, 2001 to the Department of Finance (DOF) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), a single modification to eliminate all the flaws in the present collection system through banks. This modification is simple, easily doable, immediately implementable administratively and last but not least - would not entail any cost to government.

Unfortunately for our country and people, the government, specifically the DOF and BSP have resisted our proposal by interposing extraneous and erroneous objections one after another for the last fourteen (14) months.

In this context, therefore, the DOF and BSP are primarily to blame for the revenue losses exceeding P100 billion per annum which could have been easily prevented.

Proposed modification

We have been proposing that the tax/duty collections of AABs be reclassified from mere "payables" to "demand deposits" of the Bureau of Treasury (BTr).

With such a simple re-classification, the tax/duty collections can now be immediately recorded on line, as they are received by bank tellers, as demand deposits of the BTr.

With the on line tellering system and the 28-digit magnetic ink character recording (MICR) in the bank checks presently employed by banks, the amounts so collected can even be isolated on line as BTr deposits.

As an additional safeguard, while the tax/duty collections may be paid and coursed to any branch of the AABs, the amounts should be credited directly to the BTr's deposit accounts opened and maintained only in the head offices of the AABs.

Moreover, our proposal would enable the BTr, BIR and Customs to know at the end of each banking day the actual total collections, broken down by agency, by kind of tax/duty paid, and by taxpayer.

Tax/duty shortfalls

The biggest single factor that prevents the BIR and Customs from efficiently collecting internal revenue taxes and duties is their utter lack of a basic management information system (MIS) that will give the actual total amounts they collect as soon as possible, broken down by taxpayer and kind of tax/duty paid.

Clearly, at the minimum, both these agencies need this information. For how can they go about collecting if, to start with, they do not know what taxes/duties have been paid and what are still collectible?

It is precisely for this reason that for the last six years the government pursued a massive computerization program worth P5.0 billion for the BIR and Customs. To date, sad to say, the program has not come up with such basic MIS despite the more than P3 billion already spent for its development. So far, what the program has come up with is merely an electronic payment system (EPS) that covers only 40% of total collection.

The government's plan to cover the remaining 60% with the same system (EPS) is impracticable as it would require every taxpayer to open and maintain a bank account. If at all, it will take a considerable amount of time before such a system can be installed.

As shown above, our proposed modification will provide the BIR and Customs with the basic MIS that will tell them at the end of each banking day the actual total amounts collected, broken down by taxpayer and kind of tax/duty paid. This will enable them not only to arrest collection shortfalls (which for the first half of 2002 amounted to P33.4 billion and P9.1 billion, respectively, and which would translate to a total annual shortfall of more than P80.0 billion), but more so to exceed their targets. Indeed, they would even be able to increase collection targets which, at present, are severely limited by inadequate data and information.

Clearly, we cannot tolerate further delays in the implementation of our proposal which will give the BIR and Customs the basic MIS.

Diversion of tax payments

Tax/duty payments collected through AABs are also diverted through the following modus operandi:

First, the syndicates befriend the manager, accountant or cashier of a bank branch, or all of them. Second, they lure the bank official/s into colluding with them. Third, they open a fictitious deposit account with the bank branch. Fourth, they deposit an unfunded third-party check with an amount exactly corresponding to the amount of the intercepted check payable to either the BIR or Customs. Fifth, the unfunded third party check is then replaced by the intercepted check payable to BIR or Customs, which in turn will be the one presented for clearing to the Philippine Clearing House Corp. (PCHC) or the BSP. Sixth, immediately after the check has cleared, the entire amount is withdrawn and the fictitious deposit account closed.

The most recent example of this is the P203 million tax diversion which was done through a collusion between a syndicate and allegedly the manager of the Land Bank in Binangonan Rizal. It was discovered only after one-and-a-half years when the BIR was collecting the diverted tax payment from the taxpayers concerned. It is said that this discovery is just the tip of the iceberg. It is not far-fetched that many similar, larger amounts of tax diversions are happening and will never be known if some BIR personnel are also involved in the conspiracy.

Our proposed modification will plug the loopholes that enable the syndicates to divert and encash checks payable to BIR and Customs amounting to billions of pesos annually. How? Simple –

1) To start with, our modification will immediately account for and isolate on line cash and check payments to BIR and Customs, which therefore cannot be diverted anymore.

2) Furthermore, since collections will be directly credited to the head offices of the AABs, the syndicates will no longer collude with any official of the bank branches. The syndicates can now only collude with the bank officials in the head offices of the AABs, where BTr's deposit accounts will be maintained exclusively. Today's 96 banks have about 4,500 bank branches nationwide. With our suggested procedure, a syndicate's ability to collude with bank outlets would be drastically reduced from 4,596 (head offices plus branches) to even fewer than just 96 head offices, since only about twenty (20) banks are AABs. It should also be harder for the syndicates to collude with the bank officials at the head offices, since the latter would be more responsible because of higher positions and salaries.

3) Moreover, under this procedure, the PCHC's and BSP's own independent and separate records of the daily tax/duty collections would verify the amounts recorded and reported by the AABs to the BTr. This would completely prevent the syndicates from continuing to ply their trade.

Delays and/or non-remittances of AABs

Under the present set up where tax/duty collections are recorded as payables, it is the AABs that decide when to remit, how much to remit, or not to remit at all, to the BTr. As demand deposits, it will now be the BTr who would initiate and automatically transfer the collections of the AABs to the BTr's regular government bank accounts, immediately after the lapse of the agreed 5-day float (in the case of BIR), and 10-day float (in the case of Customs). Clearly, under our proposal, the unscrupulous AABs will be precluded from delaying and/or not remitting collections, thereby sparing the government the loss of billions of pesos.

Additional benefits

Two other substantial benefits can also be derived by the government from our proposals:

1. Since collections will be credited on line directly to the account of the BTr in the head offices of the AABs, monitoring, recording and reporting will be greatly facilitated; and

2. The proposed procedure will enable the government to have actual cash flows in place of mere estimates.

Extraneous and erroneous objections

Based on the foregoing, it is inexplicable why DOF and BSP have been steadfastly resisting the adoption of our proposal. They have been raising one after another, over a 14-month period, the following extraneous and erroneous objections:

1. DOF/BSP wanted to put our proposal on hold, ostensibly because they are contemplating changing the mode of compensating the AABs, from the present float (5 days for BIR and 10 days for Customs) to a flat fee. Such objection is irrelevant, because the compensation mode can be changed at any time — even after our proposal is implemented.

2. Classifying/recording tax/duty collections as demand deposits will be subject to BSP's 16% reserve requirement to the prejudice of the AABs. However, we explained that tax and duty collections presently treated improperly as payables are not covered by the 16% reserve requirement. As such, the government will not lose anything if the BSP will waive said reserve requirement once collections are properly treated as demand deposits.

3. The Monetary Board denied with finality said exemption, saying that its authority to do so is limited only to deposits and deposit substitutes with remaining maturities of 2 years or more, and to interbank borrowings. We countered that if BSP will insist on the reserve requirement, the impasse can be resolved simply by increasing the float of the AABs (from 5 days to 6 days for BIR collections and from 10 days to 12 days for Customs collections) which will keep the AABs whole.

4. The DOF claims that a) the proposed increase in float will just delay further the actual remittance of the funds (in the case of BIR by 1 day and Customs 2 days) and b) the present system where collections are recorded as "payables" gives the government a lien superior to deposits.

These objections, however, fail to appreciate our proposal in its entirety. Our proposal would provide BIR and Customs with basic MIS that will prevent collection shortfalls and even increase collection, would totally preclude tax/duty diversions, and would completely eliminate delays and non-remittances of collections. Clearly, the government will be better off with our proposal. Evidently, the delay of 1 to 2 days, as well as the loss of a superior lien, will be much more than offset by the prevention of revenue losses amounting to P100 billion per annum and the enhancement of revenues.

5. The DOF/BSP also claim that, starting August 1, 2002, an Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) will be implemented so that the funds received by the AABs shall be immediately recorded on line as "Due from AAB". This is not true, because a "Due from AAB", being a non-deposit account, can only be captured and statistically recorded by the collecting bank's accounting department at the end of the day. Only our proposed "demand deposit account" can be recorded and isolated immediately on line as BTr deposits. Additionally, collections booked as a "Due from AAB" would still give the AABs the sole latitude to delay and/or misappropriate tax/duty collections at their whim and caprice.

Conclusion

In the light of our proposal, the DOF's and BSP's insistence on the present pernicious system is tantamount to reckless and wanton negligence. This becomes more apparent if we consider that all other payments, fees, subscriptions, etc. collected by banks for private companies (such as MERALCO, PLDT, Globe, Smart, Maynilad, etc.) are recorded on line as they are received by the bank tellers. BIR and Customs could be the only exceptions. Why?

Due to the gravity of the problem, we have written President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last July 29, 2002 requesting her to intercede and order the DOF and BSP to immediately adopt and implement our proposal.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Landslides kill 49 in India

LUCKNOW, India—Soldiers arrived in remote, hilly northern areas Monday to rescue villagers hit by torrential weekend rains and landslides that killed at least 49 people, a state official said.

The death toll was expected to mount as rescuers cleared piles of mud, rocks and uprooted trees.

"Casualties could be much higher. There are at least half a dozen villages totally cut off from Uttaranchal state," said R.S. Tolia, a top state government official.

After a mountainous trek of more than 10 km the soldiers reached Marwari, Medugaon, Kotgaon and Angoda, four villages in Uttaranchal state where civil authorities recovered 43 bodies Sunday, Tolia said.

The troops were expected to carry food and medicine to more than half a dozen villages in the region, nearly 300 km northeast of the Indian capital, New Delhi.

But their efforts were being hampered by continuing pounding rain and a lack of roads.

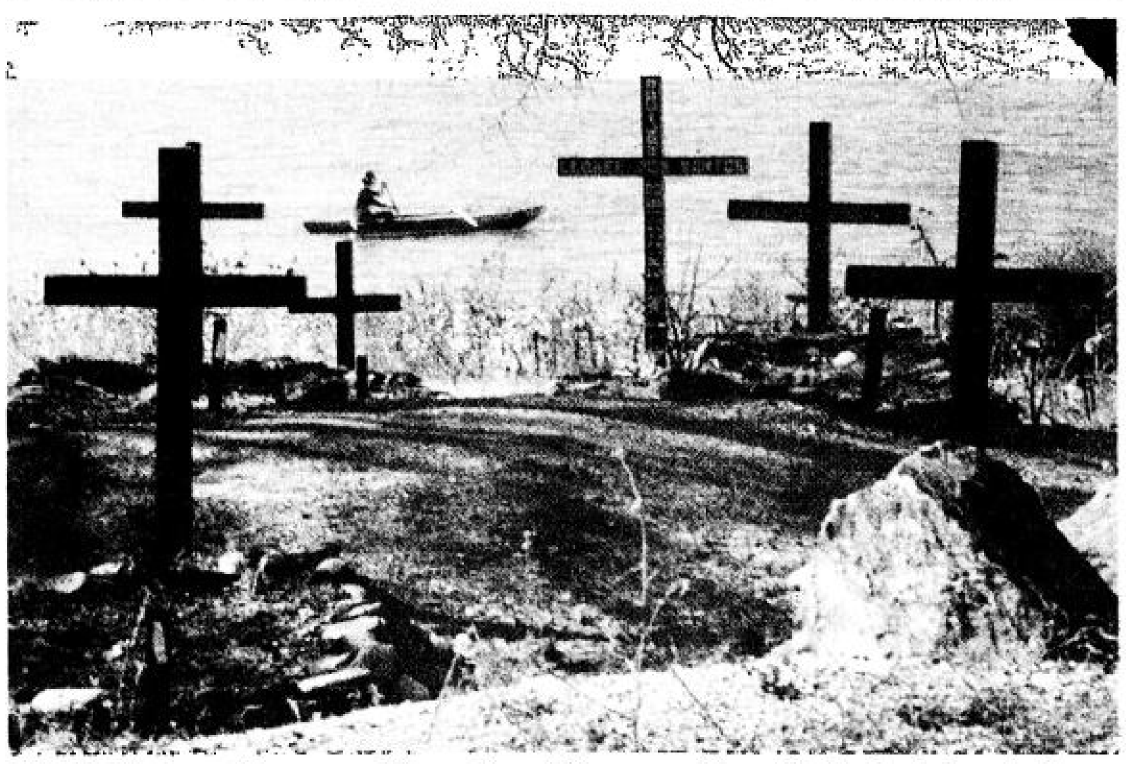
On Sunday night, another six people were swept away by swirling waters of the Bhagirathi River and believed dead in Heena Sirror, a village in Uttarkashi district, said D.K. Gupta, a government administrator.

Rescue helicopters were on standby, waiting for the weather to clear to fly to the region.

Nearly 1,000 defiant people faced evacuation as flood waters began submerging Tehri, a town 250 km north of New Delhi.

These people have refused to move into a new township built by authorities after acquiring land in the area to build a dam. *AP*

State of emergency in Colombia



AN EAST Timorese fisherman paddles past beachside graves of those killed in the violence leading up to East Timor's independence in Dili, East Timor, in this Sept. 1, 2000 file photo. Civilians were slaughtered as they hid in churches. The homes of independence leaders were attacked and activists killed. Entire villages were burned to the ground. AP

Timor trial verdicts out this week

JAKARTA—Civilians slaughtered as they hid in churches. The homes of independence leaders attacked and activists killed. Entire villages burned to the ground.

The first verdicts in the trials of 18 alleged perpetrators of these and other atrocities in East Timor are expected to come down this week. If there are convictions, it would be the first time high-ranking officials in the Indonesian military are punished for decades of abuses.

Critics doubt that Indonesia's politicized courts can deliver justice and say they are a poor substitute for an international tribunal, like those established for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

They say Indonesia's failures range from weak indictments to inept and inexperienced prosecutors to a government unwilling to present an accurate picture of its role in the violence.

"Sometimes it seems like this is a formality," said Agung Yudhawiranata, a court observer for the Indonesian rights group Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy. "It's not that they can't run a good trial. It's that they are unwilling."

Nearly 1,000 East Timorese were killed by the Indonesian military and their militia proxies in 1999 both before and after voters approved a UN-sponsored independence ballot. East Timor became independent on May 20. *AP*

BOGOTA, Colombia—President Alvaro Uribe, trying to combat rebel attacks that have killed dozens since his inauguration, issued an emergency declaration Monday arming his government with powers to boost its security forces and increase taxes to pay for it.

Uribe issued the decree after an emergency Cabinet meeting late Sunday. He declared a "state of internal commotion," which authorizes the government to take special measures but falls short of a state of siege, which likely would have meant new restrictions on civil liberties.

"We all have to be aware that a regime characterized by terror means extreme instability in Colombia," said Fernando Londono, interior and justice minister, who announced the decree just after midnight. "For this reason, the government has decided to declare a state of internal commotion."

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, is blamed for killing 19 Colombians in a mortar attack on downtown Bogota as Uribe was being inaugurated last Wednesday. Colombia's largest guerrilla group is also being held responsible for numerous bomb attacks leading up to and after the inauguration.

The declaration invokes a provision in the Constitution that allows the government to take special measures when there is a threat to "institutional stability, state security or citizen well-being."

The emergency decree can be applied for 90 days, then reactivated for two more periods of 90 days, the second of which must be authorized by Congress.

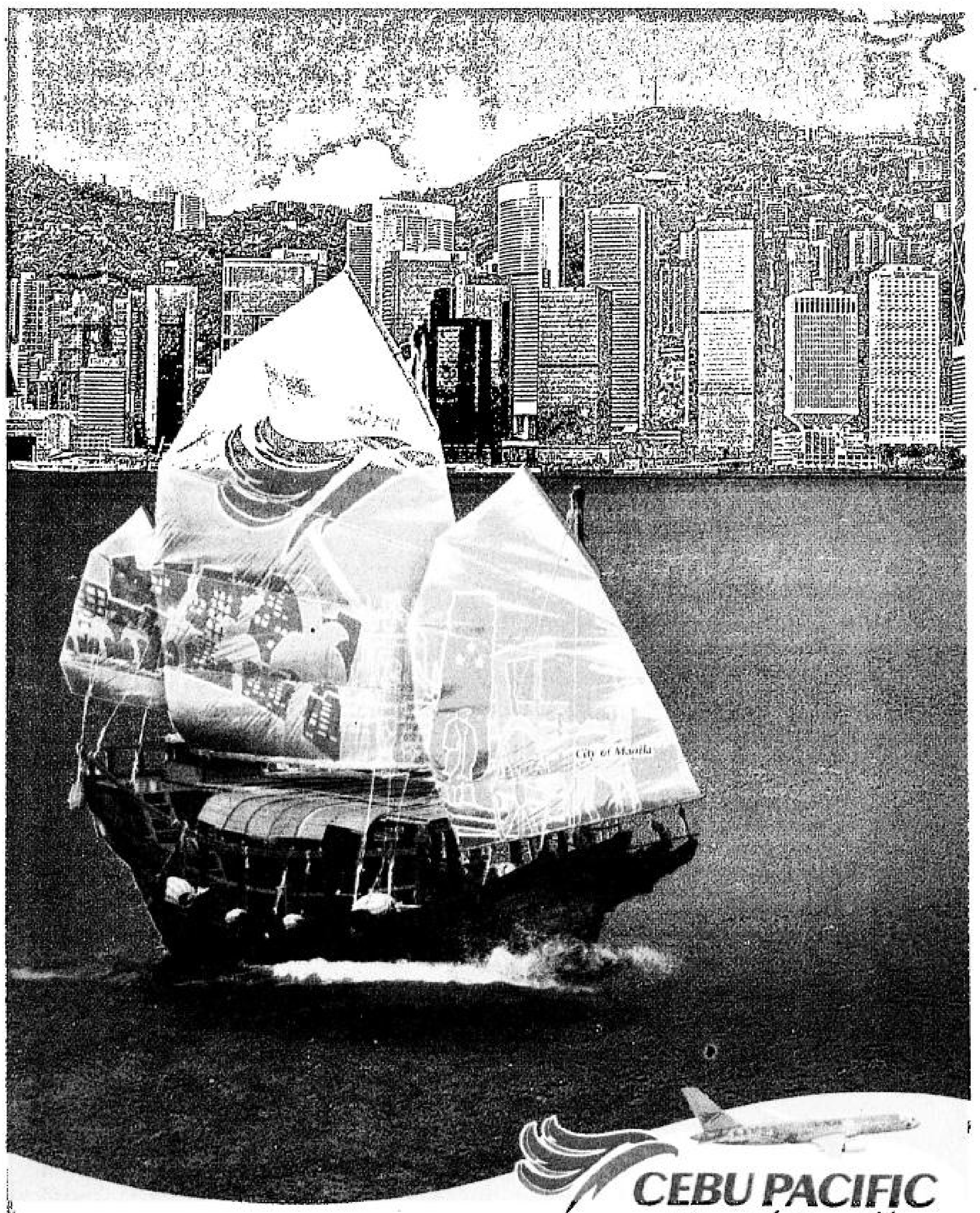
Steps will be taken immediately to increase the size of the military and police force, said Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez. About 10,000 more police officers will be hired and two Army brigades of 3,000 soldiers each will be added, she said.

COLOMBIA President Alvaro Uribe in a huddle with Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez. AP

Uribe also plans to create a million-strong civilian force of "supporters" to help inform police and the army of rebel and paramilitary activity.

These plans will be financed by a new tax, said Finance Minister Roberto Junguito. There are no plans to introduce war bonds, for now, he said.

Uribe has emphasized the need for stricter laws to face the crisis in Colombia, ravaged by a 38-year civil war that pits rebels against the government and illegal paramilitaries. *AP*



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WORLDBRIEFS

Iraq campaign

BAGHDAD—Iraqi efforts to convince the world it is a victim of false US claims and allegations have risen in recent days along with the speculation Washington soon will wage war to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. On Sunday, Iraqi officials took journalists on a tour of a site in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, said to be a suspected biological weapons production site. Iraqi officials maintain it was a livestock vaccination laboratory. And Saddam recently summoned a visiting British member of parliament, George Galloway, for a meeting in an underground bunker. Galloway, a frequent visitor to Baghdad and critic of US and British policies toward Iraq, wrote about the meeting in an article published in the British tabloid The Mail on Sunday. Iraq blamed civil engineer Adnan Saeed al-Haidari, who once worked with a military industrial company in Baghdad but fled the country, and unspecified others of making false claims about the alleged weapons site to the CIA. *AP*

Volcano erupts

TOKYO—A volcano erupted on a deserted Japanese island in the Pacific Ocean Monday, spewing smoke and ash into the air for the first time in 63 years, officials said. The volcano on Tori Island, part of a chain of small islands about 577 km south of Tokyo, was last active on Aug. 18, 1939, Meteorological Agency spokesperson Yohei Hasegawa said. An agency official confirmed the eruption during a flight over the island in a Japan Coast Guard aircraft, after a ship reported smoke rising from the mountain, he said. *AP*

Threat to bridge

SAN FRANCISCO—Various state and federal law enforcement officials increased patrols on and around the Golden Gate Bridge after authorities learned of a potential terrorist threat 11 months after attacks on New York and Washington. The bridge was placed on a "super-heightened" state of alert after information was shared through an interagency coalition, Mary Currie, spokesperson for the Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District, said on Sunday. The California Highway Patrol, FBI, US Coast Guard, Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies "all aggressively are doing exactly what needs to be done to protect and keep the Golden Gate Bridge secure," Currie said. *AP*

Korea talks

SEOUL—South and North Korea embarked on high-level talks Monday, vowing to revive the reconciliation process that thrived after a historic summit in 2000 but stalled amid US-North Korean tension last year. The Cabinet-level talks, the first in nine months, came as the North's communist government also appeared to be moving toward a resumption of dialogue with the South's chief ally, the United States. A 29-member North Korean delegation flew aboard a Soviet-built plane to Seoul for the three-day talks, the first of a series of contacts scheduled this week with South Korea. *AP*

Gay minister

WELLINGTON—Prime Minister Helen Clark was planning to appoint New Zealand's first openly gay Cabinet minister when she announces the makeup of her government later this week. Former teacher Chris Carter, a Labor lawmaker from the northern city of Auckland, said Monday he hoped his sexuality would not be an issue. "I'd like to be defined by my efficiency, not my sexuality," he said. "I'm looking forward to representing the diversity of New Zealand." Carter, who won his seat in western Auckland with a huge majority in July's election, has not yet been assigned a portfolio in Clark's new Cabinet. *AP*

Reporter buried

LOS ANGELES—Slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was buried Sunday in a private ceremony in Los Angeles, a family spokesperson said. "We finally laid to rest our beloved son, husband, brother and father in his hometown, overlooking the concert hall where he loved to perform with his youth orchestra," the Pearl family said in a statement. "Danny will continue to inspire his family and the millions of friends and strangers who were touched by his life and death. He will always be remembered for his pursuit of truth and dialogue, his respect for people of all backgrounds, and his love of music, humor and friendship." During the burial at an undisclosed cemetery, Pearl's father, Judea Pearl, recited Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, and a violinist played a rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Partita." *AP*

'Asian Brown Cloud'

LONDON—The "Asian Brown Cloud," a 3-km-thick blanket of pollution over South Asia, may be causing the premature deaths of a half-million people in India each year, deadly flooding in some areas and drought in others, according to the biggest-ever scientific study of the phenomenon. The grimy cocktail of ash, soot, acids and other damaging airborne particles is as much the result of low-tech polluters like wood- and dung-burning stoves, cooking fires and forest clearing as it is of dirty industries, the UN-sponsored study found. "When you think about air pollution, many people think of industry and fossil fuels as the only causes," report co-author Paul Crutzen, a scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany, told a news conference in London. Often ignored, he said, was "biomass burning," including forest fires and the burning of vegetation to clear land or to warm the homes of poor people. *AP*

Pope message

CASTEL CANDOLFO, Italy—Citing his personal pain for the bloodshed in the Holy Land, Pope John Paul II on Sunday delivered one of his most forceful denunciations yet of the violence there, lamenting that Palestinians were subjected to virtual "collective punishment" and that Israelis were gripped by daily fear of attacks on their lives. "When will one learn that co-existence between the Israeli and Palestinian people cannot result from arms? Neither attacks, nor walls of separation, nor retaliation will ever lead to a just solution of the conflict under way," John Paul said in an appearance to pilgrims in the courtyard of his summer palace in Castel Gandolfo, a hilltown near Rome. "The Pope suffers along with all those who are weeping in mourning and over destruction," John Paul said, adding that he is "near, above all, to those very many innocents who pay the price of such violence." *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough..

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 28°**	Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 23°**	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 32°**	Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 32°**	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 28°**	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 27°**	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Rains	**HI 28°**	Lo 22°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 30°**	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 29°**	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 29°**	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 30°**	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 29°**	Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 28°**	Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 30°**	Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 31°**	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 30°**	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/13/02

ROUNDUP

Rabid dogs

DAVAO CITY—This city has the most rabid dogs in Southern Mindanao. Statistics showed that Davao City accounts for 70.89 percent of the total number of animals found positive of rabies as of July 2002. In December 2001, Davao City also accounted for most of positive cases of animal rabies at 75.72 percent compared with other cities and provinces in the region, said Dr. Rafael Mercado, chief of the Livestock Division of the Department of Agriculture. Mercado said 47 percent of the samples were taken from puppies with ages zero to three months and 29 percent were four to six months old. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Robbery suspect nabbed

DAVAO CITY—The suspect in the robbery of a professor at the University of Philippines in Mindanao (UP-Min) here was arrested by the police on Friday. UP-Min Prof. Dr. Guillermo Largo went into coma and died days after he was hit in the head with a piece of wood when robbed on Aug. 2. On Friday, police arrested the suspect, Nestor Buhanghang. Largo, 42, earned his PhD in Chemistry at the La Salle University. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cop killed in ambush

COTABATO CITY—A police officer assigned to the Davao City Police Command was killed when ambushed by unidentified men in Pagagawan, Maguindanao on Friday night. The victim was identified as PO1 Moner Umal, who was with four other policemen inside a passenger van when ambushed. Umal was a resident of nearby Pikit, Cotabato. PO1 Ben Lidasan, who was with Umal when the attack happened, said they were on vacation.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bohol firms cited

TAGBILARAN CITY—Four establishments and two hospitals were cited in the first Bohol Environmental Best Practices awards. Named winners were Metro Centre Hotel and Convention Center in the hotel and accommodation category and the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in the hospital and medical center category. Also cited were Bohol Tropics Resort Club, resort category; and JJ's Seafoods Village (restaurant), Bohol Machine Shop (metal fabrication and motor repair shop), and the Ramiro Community Hospital (hospital and medical center category). The winners received their plaques from the Bohol Integrated Development Foundation (Bidef) and the provincial government recently during a program held at the Bohol Cultural Center to commemorate Bohol Day. ***Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

River basin plan

LEGAZPI CITY—A joint Australian-Filipino project funded by the World Bank will come up with a comprehensive management plan for the Bicol river basin. The project will be undertaken by consultants from Hassal and Associates International, one of Australia's leading international project management and consulting firms; Sustainable Ecosytems International Inc., a noted Philippine consultancy firm and the DENR. Oscar Hamada, DENR Bicol executive director, said since last month his office has been organizing management and technical working groups in preparation for a comprehensive management of three major watershed areas in Bicol.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hope for Palawan tourism

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The recently held Southern Tagalog Regional Tourism Council (STTC) Assembly brought new hope for tourism and gave Puerto Princesa and Palawan promises that the province will surely look forward to. Palawan Governor Rodolfo Valencia, former chair of STTC, said the staging of the STTC Assembly here will increase tourist arrivals in the city as what happened to other assembly hosts in the past. Several resolutions were passed by the council including support for the declaration of Palawan as the eco-tourism capital of the Philippines.

Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebel taxation

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Palayan City—Communist rebels operating in Central Luzon have been extorting money and food from residents in Barangay Nabuklod in Floridablanca, Pampanga, reports reaching here said. Col. Gerry Layug, 69th Infantry Battalion chief, said villagers had seen 20 armed rebels on Aug. 2 collecting money from businessmen and residents.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov says search for new jobs on for 40,000 Diwalwal miners

DAVAO CITY—Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero said the closure of mining operations on Mt. Diwata in Monkayo town would not be immediate.

He said the order, which was signed on Sunday by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, would be implemented after a month.

He said the biggest hindrance to its immediate implementation was the loss of livelihood for more than 40,000 small-scale miners dependent on the gold-rush area.

Caballero said giving alternative livelihood to the soon-to-be-displaced miners is among the concerns of the government.

Alvarez's closure order came in the wake of rising violence in the gold-rush area.

These included the recent toxic smoke incident that killed a miner and downed several others and the ambush that killed a boy on Wednesday.

The toxic smoke incident triggered a protest on Saturday, which was violently dispersed by elements of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade.

On the violent dispersal, Caballero said provincial government officials felt they were not given due respect by the Philippine Army.

"Parang binastos kami. The dignity of the provincial government is at stake here," he said.

Caballero said he and other provincial officials were in the middle of negotiations with the miners to lift the protest when the dispersal occurred.

He said soldiers entered the picket line without taking into account the presence of the public officials.

Caballero said he was checking with the Army to determine who gave the orders.

During the dispersal, a military vehicle rammed through the coffin of toxic smoke victim Roberto Zamora.

Zamora's cadaver was thrown out of the coffin before it landed by the roadside.

Leaders of the Mt. Diwata Coalition, a group of small-scale miners, said the vehicle also hit Marvin Guarin.

Mt. Diwata Barangay Captain Franco Tito said Guarin had been rushed to a hospital here and remains in critical condition.

Col. Pedro Curva, commanding officer of the 701st IB, admitted he ordered the dispersal of the miners but denied his men rammed the coffin or hurt anybody.

"It was not true. What happened was we wanted to clear the highway but there was no cadaver and nobody was hurt," Curva told Radyo ng Bayan here yesterday.

He said when an armored personnel carrier arrived, the protesters ran.

Asked to comment on photos taken by journalists and footage captured by TV cameras, Curva insisted these were taken after the protesters left the picket line.

"The armored car was not moving already and the people went near it when the photos were taken," he said.

But Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he saw the cadaver lying on the ground and the broken coffin near it.

"But I have no time to ask who did it," Duterte said.

Duterte, who was instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to help find a solution to the Diwata violence, arrived in Tagmanok as the dispersal was going on.

Curva declined to be blamed on the incident and instead blamed the protesting miners.*Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR exec falls in entrapment operation

BAGUIO CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation on Friday arrested an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources after he demanded money from a real estate developer here.

Lawyer Rickson Chiong, Cordillera NBI director, identified the suspect as engineer Juancho Tagnipis, project coordinator of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program for DENR. Tagnipis was arrested in an entrapment operation outside the DENR regional office here on Friday.

Chiong said the NBI acted on reports of Tagnipis' alleged malpractice.

Chiong said several officials of other government agencies are under the NBI's watch list for various complaints.

Marcos Dacanay, a real estate developer, said Tagpinis demanded P20,000 from him for the approval of his subdivision project in Ifugao.

Dacanay said he earlier gave Tagnipis an initial P3,000. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BING GONZALES

SUNDAY CROWD

Big Sunday for these ambulant vendors who crowd the entrance of the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City.

CA rejects coal firm's tax appeal

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The Court of Appeals has stood by its earlier ruling upholding a decision of the Antique Regional Trial Court that ordered Asia's biggest coal corporation to pay real property taxes to town of Caluya, Antique worth more than P113 million.

In a one-page resolution, the CA's 16th division denied the motion for reconsideration filed by the Semirara Coal Corporation (SCC), saying it found "no cogent and plausible reasons to grant a reconsideration much less a reversal" of its earlier ruling.

The resolution dated July 22 was signed by Associate Justices Eriberto Rosario Jr., Oswaldo Agcaoili and Mariano del Castillo.

The latest CA ruling paves the way for the collection of back taxes.

On March 26, the CA dismissed the firm's petition to annul the judgment of the Antique RTC Branch 13 issued on Dec. 16, 1999.

The SCC, now known as Semirara Mining Corp, filed the motion for reconsideration on April 23.

The firm also sought the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the ruling of the Antique RTC Branch 13 pending resolution of its motion to the CA.

In its motion for reconsideration, the SCC reiterated its earlier argument that the decision and resolution of the Antique court were "void" for lack of jurisdiction.

The firm said the lower court ordered the SCC to pay real property taxes representing an amount that the town was not claiming.

It said in the complaint filed by Caluya that the town claimed unpaid taxes of only P22,173,361.13.

The SCC also claimed that it was "unduly deprived of its right to due process of law" because its former legal counsel committed "gross negligence" in handling the case.

Opponents of Clark landfill project turn to Supreme Court

TARLAC CITY—Not to be beaten to the draw, the group opposed to the construction of a sanitary landfill in Barangay Cutcut II in Capas town has urged the Supreme Court to hasten its review of the class suit it filed in April against the project's proponents.

The motion asking the tribunal's decision on the petition to stop the project came on the heels of an announcement by the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) that the landfill will start operations either this month or in September.

The group is composed of local government officials, school heads, priests and members of the academe and civil society groups.

Capas Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan, the leader of the multisectoral group, said they have filed the resolution before the Supreme Court. Named respondents in the class suit were the CDC, the German consortium Ingenieurburo Birkham + Nolte GMBH and Heers Brockstedt GMBH & Co. KG and its Philippine representative, the BN Consultants Phil. Inc.

On Aug. 1, Juan Miguel Fuentes, CDC environment officer, said the landfill's operations will begin "in one or two months."

CDC and Tarlac officials inspected the 100-hectare landfill site on Aug. 1 and witnessed the demonstration of German technology involved in the construction of the project, particularly the gluing together of tiles of high-density polyethylene (HDPE).

A CDC official said weeks of heavy rains have delayed the completion of the landfill.

The leachate shaft, the 2.7-hectare landfill basin and the 0.3-hectare leachate basin, are almost complete.

"Initially, five hectares would be devoted to the landfill," said Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president and chief executive officer.

"(But) as president (of the CDC), I can have this (landfill) closed down if it violates the law," he said.

Angeles assigned Fuentes to lead a team that would monitor the operations of the landfill.

The petitioners said they were left with no choice but to seek the court's intercession. *Russell Arador and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Marina to probe explosion inside ship

By Jani Arnaiz, Joey A. Gabieta and Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Maritime Industry Authority-Eastern Visayas (Marina-8) yesterday sent a team to look into the explosion inside a passenger ship in Ormoc City that killed two crew members and wounded four others.

Lino Maceda, Marina-8 officer-in-charge, said the team, headed by ship building specialist Danilo Morano, was expected to finish their investigation in a day.

"But the results of his investigation will not be released to the public right away. It will be evaluated first by (Marina-8 regional) director (Jose) Vero," Maceda said.

"Any penalty or penalties that Marina might impose against the owners of the ship will be based on evidence gathered by the investigating team," he added.

Maceda said the Marina-8 also issued yesterday morning a "show cause order" against Sulpicio Lines, owner of the MV Princess, to explain in writing "the real cause of the accident."

Ulysses Yap, Sulpicio Lines legal counsel, said they would also conduct their own investigation to determine what caused the air tank of its auxiliary engines to explode.

He also assured that the company would provide financial assistance to the victims.

On Sunday, MV Princess, a passenger ship plying the Ormoc City-Cebu City route, caught fire following an explosion in the ship's air tank while it was docked at the port in Ormoc City, Leyte.

Two crew members were killed on the spot while four others suffered third degree burns.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Policarpio Ilagan identified the fatalities as apprentice engineer Benjie Alcala, 26, and oiler Lope Tumanda, 36.

Those hurt—chief engineer Edgar Villagonzalo, apprentice engineer Jun Jun Arriola, second engineer Charlton Ragadio and third engineer Rey Gardoce—were ferried to Cebu City on Sunday afternoon.

Ilagan told the INQUIRER that crew members of the 3,351-ton vessel were conducting maintenance at the Ormoc port.

The MV Tacloban Princess was supposed to leave for Cebu at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday. When the crew members started the engine, Ilagan said the ship's air tank exploded.

Dam builder says no houses were burned

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Officials of the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC) disputed the claims of residents of Sitio Bolangit in San Nicolas town that they were evicted from their houses and that the firm had ordered the burning of their houses.

In a press statement, SRPC president Pat McAllister said the victims' allegations were "false and without foundation" because what were burned were "unsalvageable or unusable materials to prevent (these) from becoming floating debris that could interfere with dam and power plant operations."

Last week, members of the Tignay Dagiti Mannalon a Mangwaya-waya iti Agno (Timmawa), a farmers' and gold panners' group, claimed that SRPC personnel evicted residents of Sitio Bolangit from their houses and burned down 11 houses there. The group also staged a picket at the provincial capitol grounds to ask the provincial government to stop the dam's operation.

But the SRPC said the residents had to leave because the entire *sitio* (sub-village) would serve as the reservoir of the $1.2-billion San Roque multipurpose dam. The SRPC has started impounding water this month in preparation for the dam's operation at the end of this year.

McAllister said the National Power Corp. has bought all land in the village from about 80 families who formerly lived there. He said every family was compensated "for the lands, houses, non-residential structures, crops and trees."

Retired Admiral Virgilio Marcelo, SRPC vice president and director for community and government program, earlier reported to McAllister that six of the 80 families continued to remain in the village despite the Napocor's payment.

Since May, the SRPC and Napocor have been holding information dissemination campaigns on the scheduled filling up of the reservoir, Marcelo said. He said they asked the residents to leave for their safety.

He said they conducted a final dialogue with the remaining families in the village on July 23 but they "stubbornly ignored appeals."

During the dialogue, Marcelo said the SRPC and residents agreed that the residents would dismantle their houses made of cogon, bamboo and wood.

When the members of Task Force Noah's Ark, a team from SRPC, Napocor and representatives of the San Nicolas local government, inspected the area two days later, they discovered that the houses were still standing.

"The team asked the owners to leave and then these were dismantled. The materials that were no longer usable were burned. The houses' owners salvaged some materials and their other belongings were airlifted . . . to Sitio Lapuan," Marcelo said.

He said the residents were given the option to relocate to Sitio Lagpan, a new community developed by the SRPC and Napocor or to accept financial assistance.

Congress asked to OK budget for more Cafgus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina has called on Congress to approve the budget proposal for the recruitment of more Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) members who will help fight communist guerrillas in the barangay level.

Carolina said there was a need to increase the number of Cafgu members from the present figure of 33,000 to about 70,000 to 80,000.

The Cafgu or part-time soldiers, Carolina said, are very important for the community defense system.

"That is why, we have been telling our legislators to approve the proposed budget under the Department of National Defense and allow us to recruit and train more Cafgus," Carolina told the INQUIRER.

There are 10,000 Cafgus in Mindanao and 23,000 more are distributed in Visayas and Luzon, Carolina said.

But he said the present number is not enough to secure each barangay particularly those in remote areas.

Bayan Muna Representative Satur Ocampo said the 45,000 additional Cafgu members would be too big a number if these will be used solely for Mindanao.

"If Carolina said that, he would be fomenting more conflicts within communities. Cafgus caused human rights violations before and still do now," Ocampo told the INQUIRER.

The ranks of the military were also reinforced by more than 500 former Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas who had been integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The ex-rebels were absorbed into the 53rd Infantry Battalion in ceremonies held in Jolo, Sulu.

Carolina said the integrees belonged to the first batch of fighters who were considered front runners of former MNLF Chair Nur Misuari.

The 53rd IB was deactivated in 1990 due to its reported participation in a coup against ex-President Corazon Aquino. Prior to that, the unit was known for its successful counter-insurgency campaign in Misamis Oriental from 1985 to 1989.

Maj. General Glicerio Sua, chief of the 1st Tabak Division, accepted the 491 enlisted personnel and 15 officers who form part of the 53rd IB, in a simple ceremony in Jolo Wednesday morning.

Sulu Governor Yusop Jikiri said prior to the formal integration, the ex-rebels were instrumental in maintaining peace and order in the province.

He said the new soldiers gave residents peace of mind.

The integration is part of the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and the government.

Carolina said the AFP has absorbed some 5,750 MNLF members since 1997.

"This component of the peace agreement has been a success, and we are proud to be actively involved in this component," Carolina said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mayor presses recall of vice mayor

SANTIAGO CITY—Mayor Jose Miranda and his allies launched last week a recall movement against Vice Mayor Clarito Manubay, citing the alleged loss of confidence by residents on the vice mayor's leadership.

Wilfredo Baltar, city information officer, said at least 242 village chairmen and councilors met with Miranda and talked about the recall proceedings.

Among the issues raised were Manubay's alleged obstruction of the city's development by blocking resolutions and programs proposed by the Miranda camp, his reported frequent absences as presiding officer of the city council and his alleged failure to effectively lead the city council, among other things.

Politics

Manubay, however, belittled the move and described it as "politically motivated."

He said the motive behind the recall move is "suspicious," saying Miranda can very well initiate recall proceedings by mobilizing his supporters.

"I have no choice but to face it. As long as I know that I am serving my constituents, I know that the people are behind me," Manubay said.

Baltar said a preparatory recall assembly initiated by village chairmen and councilors will be convened on Aug. 18 to remove Manubay from his post.

Notice

After a majority of the assembly participants has adopted the recall resolution, it will be submitted to the Commission on Elections office. The notice will be posted for 10 to 20 days and the signatures in the petition will be verified.

A recall election will be set within 30 days from the filing of the petition.

Reports said at least four candidates, including two sons of Miranda, will challenge Manubay should the recall elections push through. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Judge in smuggling case faces disqualification

OLONGAPO CITY—The controversial Olongapo City judge, who was ordered investigated by President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with a rice smuggling case in Subic, is also facing a disqualification case before the Supreme Court.

The case against Judge Eliodoro Ubiadas of the regional trial court branch 72 here stemmed from the issuance of at least 15 temporary restraining orders (TROs) against the cases filed by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority that the SBMA claim was "irregular."

Francisco Abella Jr., SBMA deputy administrator for legal affairs, filed the disqualification case against Ubiadas in March this year, citing "bias and partiality" against the SBMA.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Ubiadas but Edith Miano, RTC branch 72 court stenographer, said the judge is in the United States and will be back later this month.

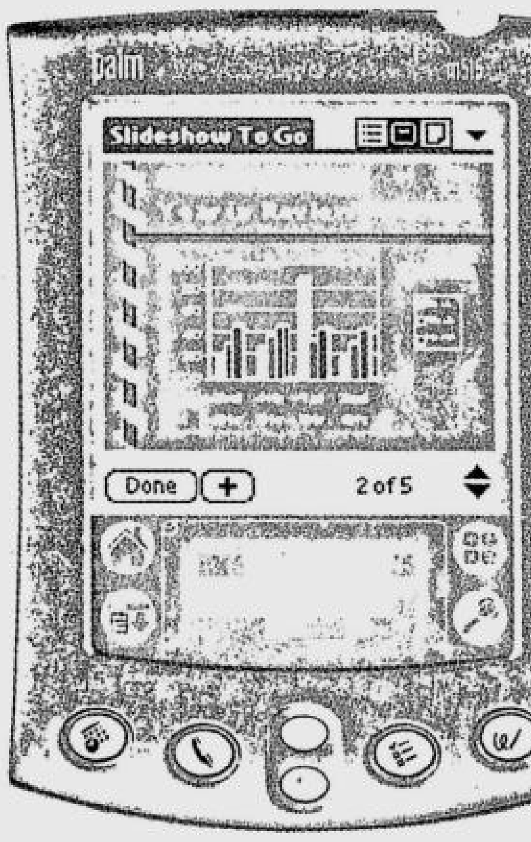
"The SBMA perceives that it will never obtain a fair ruling and can hardly see just treatment on cases filed before the sala of Judge Ubiadas despite repeated motion for inhibition that he constantly denied," Abella said in his complaint.

"It really affects the growth of (the) Subic (freeport)," he added.

Lawyer Rizal Katalbas of the SBMA legal department said among these is the controversial TRO that Ubiadas issued enjoining the implementation of Administrative Order No. 1 issued by former President Joseph Estrada. AO No. 1 revoked the reappointment of now Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as SBMA chair in 1998.

Abella said Ubiadas also issued a TRO against the SBMA in favor of one Liway Santiago who refused to vacate a housing facility within the SBMA. Santiago told the court that she struck a 50-year lease agreement with one Victoria Rodriguez, who was supposedly holding a Spanish land title for parcels of land in Subic.

In another case, Ubiadas, Abella said, issued a TRO that favored a hotel operator but prevented the SBMA from collecting P40 million in arrears representing rental and power consumption. *Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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'A gambling republic'

From page A1

my presidency," Estrada said.

"As it turned out, she is very much pro-gambling," he said.

The resistance to Pagcor's plan to install at least 2,000 more "one-armed bandits" in slot machine arcades was not limited to the political opposition.

New administration member Sen. Robert Jaworski said the plan was wrong, given the level of "economic difficulty" the country was facing.

Cebu City Rep. Raul Del Mar also chided Pagcor for its expansion program, saying the gaming firm "was effectively setting the stage for the emergence of a new kind of culture, a culture of gambling."

In Pampanga, Fr. Deo Galang, executive director of the Social Action Center of Pampanga, said there was no justification for the expansion.

"We have enough gambling in this poor country," he said.

A press statement from Pagcor spokesperson Rene Figueroa said the firm was "not taking our slot machines into every street corner and making it accessible to all. There are only three slot machine arcades in the country."

Reelection plans

Estrada said Ms Macapagal "cannot escape suspicion" that Pagcor's controversial new venture would be used to finance her reelection bid in 2004.

He said this was because "the people she placed at Pagcor are all known political operators, many of them coming from Bigkis Pinoy, the party-list group founded by her Pacgor chair Efraim Genuino, who is known to be very, very close to her husband, Mike Arroyo."

It was an "open secret," he added, that Pagcor funds were used to bankroll Bigkis Pinoy's propaganda campaign and some of the candidates of the People Power Coalition in the May 2001 elections.

The deposed President said his successor also violated the law when she allowed Pagcor to enter into joint ventures with private gambling firms "despite a clear ruling from the Supreme Court banning joint gambling ventures as in the case of . . . jai alai." The case was filed and decided during his term.

Estrada, along with son Jinggoy and several other associates, is now on trial for the capital offense of economic plunder, in part for amassing wealth through his alleged links to illegal gambling syndicates while in office.

He allegedly collected up to P540 million in "protection money" from operators of the popular but outlawed numbers game "jueteng."

In his statement yesterday, Estrada claimed to have rejected during his term "a similar proposal by Pagcor" to set up slot machine arcades outside established casinos.

He claimed he also kept Pagcor free of "partisan political activities" by maintaining Alice Reyes as its chair, "a person of high integrity and untarnished reputation" who was first appointed by President Corazon Aquino.

Gambling in streets

Angara slammed the "new Macapagal program (that) will bring the slot machines literally into the streets, making gambling accessible to all, beginning with those who have made the streets their home for want of a job and a roof over their heads."

Instead of creating jobs and helping the people build a strong work ethic, he said, the President had subverted the values of honesty and hard work as the true foundation of growth and progress.

Angara said he had waited patiently for Ms Macapagal to wield a strong hand against gambling lords and smugglers. "But never in my wildest dreams did I expect her to authorize the conversion of the entire country, at street level, as a gambling republic. But this is what has now come to pass," he said.

He continued: "Nothing can be more tragic for our country at this time. We have sunk from one bankruptcy to another, from one cesspool to the next. From a financial bankruptcy, we have now sunk into a moral one, which is the worst plague of all."

Angara called on the Church and civil society to oppose the Pagcor expansion program.

House resolution

Padilla said the new bloc's "resolution would express the sense of the House and would be against gambling, whether legal or not."

"Former President Joseph Estrada was removed from office because of gambling," Padilla told the INQUIRER. "But it seems gambling continues under this administration and it looks like it would even get stronger with the proposed expansion programs of Pagcor."

He said his group would also ask the House committee on franchise, which is hearing a bill that seeks to extend the life of Pagcor for 50 more years, to schedule a hearing that would allow them to ask about Pagcor's expansion plans.

Del Mar said he would file a resolution seeking the cancellation of Pagcor's franchise "on ground of abuse and violations of its exclusive privilege."

Another resolution he said he would file urges the President to stop Pagcor from implementing its slot machine project.

"(W)hat is Pagcor up to?" Del Mar asked in a privilege speech. "Has it lost its bearings, its already limited sense of direction?"

Del Mar said the country already has "too much of legalized gambling" and the entry of more slot machines, this time into the streets, would only victimize the "poor minimum wage earner."

He also asked whether the Pagcor slot machine project had the knowledge and consent of the President.

"The indications are that Pagcor acted on its own, wrongly invoking its exclusive prerogative, now the clever magician trying to pull a rabbit out of its hat," he said.

"On this premise, what Pagcor has done is a great disservice to the President," Del Mar said. ***With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

US, RP ask Netherlands to freeze CPP assets

From page A1

believe the US request was sent simultaneously to other countries as well, not just to the Netherlands," Tarkuile told the INQUIRER.

He said the request was in line with Powell's call on all governments to "isolate, choke off (the CPP-NPA's) source of financial support and prevent (the funds') movement across international borders."

The US move made it illegal for Americans or US entities to provide material support or resources to the Filipino rebels.

It also required US banks to block assets held by the rebels, and banned members of the group and their families from US soil.

American court

Jalandoni said the NDF was consulting US lawyers to challenge in American courts the Department of State's blacklisting of the CPP.

"The NDF is taking up this matter with some lawyers in the United States in order to legally challenge this unilateral act of US imperialist intervention," he said.

The NDF chief negotiator called on the American people to "vigorously oppose repressive laws that the US was trying to internationalize and the growing US military intervention in the Philippines."

But Foreign Secretary Blas Ople welcomed the US move, saying it could help "staunch the flow of finances and other support for local armed groups and thus, help prevent further conflict and additional loss of life."

"Although the Philippines did not solicit this action of the United States, past actions and threats of further mayhem made by the CPP-NPA themselves against US interests and American citizens make it understandable for the US government to take these threats seriously rather than wait for harm or damage to be visited upon their people," Ople said.

"We also understand it is possible that certain threats made by the CPP-NPA leadership in the Netherlands against US citizens and interests can be considered, under US law, terrorist threats and, therefore, a crime," he said.

LEFTIST demonstrators wear skull masks during a "die-in" protest outside the US Embassy in Manila. The masks represented alleged victims of past US military operations overseas.

AFP

Alex Magno, president of the Foundation for Economic Freedom, said the CPP-NPA raised tens of millions of dollars yearly by extorting money mainly from rural enterprises in the Philippines and soliciting support from "far-Left groups all over Europe."

Flemish party

Magno said a certain "Flemish Maoist party" was the principal conduit.

But Sison said, "As far as I know as NDF consultant, the CPP has never been dependent on foreign financial support and does not have any foreign or even Philippine bank account, which the US and its puppets can freeze."

Sison said the CPP, NPA, NDF and their revolutionary organs of political power were self-reliant as the people, mostly workers and peasants, were giving "voluntary contributions."

"The Macapagal puppet regime and the puppet military forces are the ones that are dependent on foreign financial and military assistance from the United States," he said.

Sison said the NPA was getting its weapons from the military. "By the way, the NPA gets its weapons, thanks to the military, police and paramilitary forces that it ambushes or raids."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the CPP was not expected to be affected by moves to freeze its funding from abroad.

"As far as I know, there is no large funding from abroad. Most of the funding come from here," said Ocampo, former NDF spokesperson.

"*Mamuti na ang mga mata ng mga Amerikano*," Ocampo said.

But he said socioeconomic projects of nongovernment organizations suspected to be CPP fronts might lose funding from Dutch NGOs and the Dutch government.

Added reason

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said the US action would give the Netherlands an "added reason to accede to the Philippine request to curtail the activities of Sison and Jalandoni and their terrorist group."

Sison applied for political asylum, but his request was turned down by the Netherlands. Sison filed an appeal, which is still under review.

Jalandoni, and his wife Connie Ledesma, an NDF consultant, have been granted asylum and have acquired Dutch citizenship.

Baja said that before the US designation of the CPP as a foreign terrorist group, the Philippines had requested the Dutch government to "go after" Sison, Jalandoni and other leaders by prosecuting them for their alleged criminal activities.

The Philippines submitted evidence to the Dutch government detailing Sison and his group's alleged criminal activities, but the Dutch government found these "insufficient," according to Baja.

Arrogance

In a statement, Jalandoni said Powell violated the integrity of the NDF and all its allied organizations, including the CPP and the NPA.

"It is an act of extreme arrogance and condemnable intervention in Philippine internal affairs for Mr. Powell to ignore the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and other bilateral agreements between the Philippine government and the NDF. His irresponsible act seriously jeopardizes the peace talks," he said.

Jalandoni said the Macapagal administration bound itself to the CARHRIHL and nine other agreements on March 27, 2001, just as the NDF did on that day. The CARHRIHL was signed and approved in 1998.

"Mr. Powell should also be informed that the NDF issued its Declaration of Undertaking to Apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977 on July 5, 1997 and deposited this with the Swiss Federal Council as official depositary and sent the same to the International Committee of the Red Cross as official guardian of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols," he said. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño and AFP***

GMA: Commies OK, but not terrorists

From page A1

breakaway group Revolutionary Proletarian Army, which entered into a ceasefire agreement with the government.

She said Sanlakas could be "irritating" but "it doesn't have an armed component."

Referring to all these non-armed groups, she said: "As long as they don't sow chaos or instigate violence in rallies, they don't have any problem with the law."

"The problem with the CPP is that it has an NPA component. That's against the law. And the NPA is engaged in terroristic activities," the President said in Filipino.

Generic

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the CPP and the NPA were terrorists "in a generic sense."

He was clarifying the President's use of the phrase "terroristic activities" in defining her administration's "analysis of communism."

"As long as we have peace talks, we hope that we can stop what they're doing against the law: the atrocities, ambushes, terroristic activities, armed struggle," Ms Macapagal said.

At his regular press briefing, Bunye explained that the President "used the word terrorist in a generic way." Bunye said the President used the word to refer to "activities by armed groups or organizations."

Pressed whether communist rebels were terrorists, Bunye said: "In a generic sense."

The President, however, did not categorically call the CPP and the NPA terrorist organizations. "But as long as they persist in these activities, we will continue to treat the NPA and their cohorts as violators of the law," she said.

Bunye earlier said that the country had no anti-terrorism law defining a terrorist group. Despite the absence of such law, the administration has referred to the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist organization.

Hesitance

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser for the peace process, has an explanation for the government's hesitance to categorically brand the CPP and the NPA as terrorists.

Ermita said in a radio interview that the government could tag the Abu Sayyaf at "no political cost."

He said it was easy for the government to paint Abu Sayyaf members as terrorists because they attacked civilians. "If the NPA does that, nothing will stop us from categorically classifying them as terrorists," he said.

In her Aug. 5 declaration of war against communist rebels, the President said her war on terrorism did not distinguish between ordinary terrorists and those espousing a political ideology.

Washington has pledged a $55-million anti-terrorism aid package to the Philippine government.

The militant Kilusang Mayo Uno told the President to stop acting as if she had no hand in the inclusion of the CPP and the NPA in the US list of foreign terrorist organizations.

"Even though Malacañang denies without fail its handiwork in the tagging of the CPP as a terrorist organization, we are certain that this labeling is linked with plans to prolong US military presence and armed intervention in the country," KMU secretary general Elmer Labog said.

"Now, Malacañang and the Armed Forces of the Philippines can justify their all-out attacks against CPP-NPA members, their supporters and even legal and progressive mass organizations," Labog said.

For his part, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said blacklisting the CPP could lead to direct US military intervention in the country's anti-insurgency campaign.

Angara said that US forces were authorized under the US anti-terrorism law to operate anywhere in pursuit of "terrorist groups."

World map

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo marveled at the way the United States was able to put the CPP and the NPA on the "world map" by listing them as foreign terrorist organizations.

The CPP-NPA is a revolutionary movement only operating in one country, according to Ocampo.

He said the Macapagal administration would now exert pressure on Congress to enact the anti-terrorism bill so that it could have a legal basis for taking part in the US blacklisting of the CPP and NPA.

The Philippine government can ask the United States to remove the CPP from its list of terrorist organizations "once there is a substantive progress" in the peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

De Venecia said last week that the final peace accord could be signed in the next few months.

In the Senate, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said it appeared that the US state department was already dictating its own definition of a terrorist organization on its allies.

Biazon said he would object to the deployment of US forces in the country to neutralize the CPP.

"If they are going to deploy troops similar to Balikatan in Basilan, then I will have to oppose it," Biazon said in a chance interview.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the government should continue its back channel talks and resume peace negotiations with the NDF. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Juliet Javelana, Agnes E. Donato, Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora***

President . . .

From page A1

notes on complaints being referred to the PAGC. "There is always an endorsement," he said.

Rama said that barring hitches, the PAGC could complete its investigation within the normal 60-day period and forward its recommendations to Malacañang for the President's approval.

"We investigate and we recommend appropriate sanctions," he stressed. "Only the President can approve sanctions."

When asked for comment, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said he was unaware of any complaint filed against Roco.

Last Aug. 2, the INQUIRER ran as its banner story a report by the Ibon Research Foundation stating that Roco topped its July 11-28 survey on possible presidential candidates in 2004. Ousted President Joseph Estrada and Ms Macapagal came close behind him in the survey that polled 1,014 respondents.

Then Senator Roco was among the presidential candidates in the 1998 election that Estrada won by a landslide.

2 laws

The PAGC has initially made a summary of the charges listed in the complaint that accused Roco of violating Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees, and RA 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Under RA 6713, the following alleged offenses were listed:

- The designation by Roco of a DepEd driver for his wife, who is not a government official.
- The failure to deposit to the National Treasury "service fees" amounting to P15-16 million a month, covering the period January to June 2002.
- The hiring of consultants in violation of procedures.
- The use of government money to print 200,000 posters featuring Roco's picture and to order for 150,000 more posters.
- The failure to enact relevant provisions of the so-called Governance of Basic Education Act.
- The uttering of vindictive remarks and display of abrasive behavior against DepEd officials and employees.

Under RA 3019, Roco was accused of suspending four DepEd officials without due process. He also allegedly granted a P70-million tax exemption for the purchase of medical equipment by the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital, contrary to the recommendation of Education Undersecretary Jaime Jacob.

The complaint-resolution was signed by union president Domingo Alidon and signed by members of the union's board of directors.

Political issue

Roco thinks the matter is being used as a political issue against him, according to his staff.

But the union members said this was not so.

"For more than a year now, we have been staging mass actions against (the secretary)," they said in the complaint.

"Unfortunately, the issues that we have been struggling to raise were never fully ventilated and discussed in the media or in any forum where (these) may be resolved.

"Our views may not, at this point in time, be popular or sympathetic to the majority. But this is because our issues had been successfully blocked from the rest. This is highly ironic for an institution (that) espouses the principle of academic freedom.

"If only we are given the chance to put forth our legitimate grievances, it will be discovered that we are not, after all, just a bunch of sorry employees with just petty complaints. Neither are we those whom some call the employees and officials who enjoyed the sinecures or privileged positions where the first and last consideration was money and who are now affected by Secretary Roco's policies."

In an interview with the INQUIRER on March 8, Roco, reacting to the issues raised by the protesting DepEd employees, said he did not want to have a "running debate" on what he said were "insignificant issues."

"It depreciates me," he said.

Roco described himself as "an organization person."

"I deal with the undersecretary, assistant secretaries and bureau heads," he said. "Ask them. (I scold anyone who is wrong.) And I can show you all the (wrongs). They've never worked weekends in this office until I came. But isn't that what you want your public official to do? The rank-and-file cannot complain about me. I never deal with them."

"How can there be a reign of terror when I don't even deal with them?" he added.

Management styles

On March 8, Roco said the protesting employees had to "come up with more serious" allegations.

"Is there any allegation that affects my integrity? Is there any allegation that I stole? None. All those (complaints) are (about) management styles," he said.

But Roco admitted then that he had indeed allowed his wife to use a government driver, one of two who had been assigned to him. He said he saw nothing wrong with that.

A day after that interview saw print, he ordered the termination of the driver's services.

Since then, Roco has not been available for interviews with the INQUIRER.

Sources said his action of letting his wife use a government driver would make him liable for graft and corruption.

With heavy heart, Kris flies to US

From page A1

KRIS Aquino on affair with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez: "In loving Joey, there are no questions asked. But while I'm loving him, can I still afford to love myself? That question I have to answer on my own. My only fault is that I've loved sincerely."

FILE PHOTO/ BETOY JOHNSON

profile romance with Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, 42. She was heading for the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

Her much-married boyfriend denied that he was scheduled to join her in the United States. "I don't have any permit to leave. That's why there's really no way I can go with her," he said.

Kris decided to take off "on her own," Marquez said. "She didn't even want me to be at the airport. Whatever decision she makes I will agree (with), and I will support her."

The 31-year-old game show host, whose love life has riveted the country as though it were a Mexican *telenovela*, did not disclose when she would return. But she said it was going to be "a brief break."

In a dramatic segment of her TV show "The Buzz" on Sunday, which was marked by copious tears and sniffles, she let on that she would spend time wrestling with her heart.

"In loving Joey, there are no questions asked," she told her close friend and co-host Boy Abunda. "But while I'm loving him, can I still afford to love myself? That question I have to answer on my own. My only fault is that I've loved sincerely."

She also admitted having brought embarrassment to her mother, former President Corazon Aquino, and tearfully apologized for it. "I'm sorry," she announced in full close-up. "Thank you for your love."

Scandal

Kris' affair with the estranged husband of former bold actress Alma Moreno, 43, has scandalized many quarters, including her family.

"She is a highly desirable person, and there are other people who can give her a better life," her only brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, said yesterday.

Her mother continues to pray for her, said the former President's spokesperson Deedee Siytangco.

"(But) she goes about her normal activities in the office," Siytangco said of the 67-year-old widow of slain opposition leader Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. "She even met with an NGO (nongovernment organization)" yesterday.

Siytangco said that "we also have to pray for the mother," whose strength, she noted, was "really something."

Kris said Sunday that her mother had written her a letter that read in part: "I'm too old for the heartaches. How many more heartaches can I survive?

"You still have my unconditional love. But please don't test that love too much. I'm not perfect."

Noynoy refused to comment when asked how he regarded Marquez.

In an earlier interview, he told the INQUIRER that his family had given up on Kris' affairs. He also said his mother and sisters were distressed by her romance with the mayor.

"I'm glad she realizes that what she's gotten into is not exactly correct," Noynoy said of Kris' admission on Sunday that she had disgraced the Aquino family. "I'm praying, together with the rest of the family, that she will be enlightened."

He also said he was optimistic that Kris would "see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Noynoy declined to make further comments, saying Kris suffered high blood pressure the last time he publicly commented on her affair with Marquez.

He said that except for an exchange of a few text messages two or three months ago, he had not communicated with his sister for a long time.

He also said Kris had been missing the Sunday lunches at their mother's home in West Triangle, Quezon City.

Siytangco said Kris had not shown up for the weekly get-together for a month and had merely sent Joshua, her son by actor Phillip Salvador.

The boy, now 7 years old, will be in Salvador's care while Kris is away.

"I'm lucky because Phillip agreed to take care of Josh," Kris said of her ex-partner.

During his five years with Kris, Salvador tried but failed to get an annulment from his estranged wife, Sony Dabao, who is based in New York with their three children.

Open arms

Marquez, who is also trying to get an annulment, yesterday said he did not need Moreno's signature for it.

"It's up to the court to decide whether I can marry again," he told the INQUIRER. "(Alma) doesn't know what she's saying. She thinks she knows better than the judge. It's the presentation of evidence in court that will approve or disapprove the annulment. If the court decides that I can love again and have a new family, I'll take that with open arms."

Marquez's wife and girlfriend had an encounter on Friday morning at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City, where he was confined for an angiogram. Moreno supposedly told Kris that she would remain a mistress because Moreno would not sign the annulment papers.

"(Alma) might have forgotten the reason we separated—it was (Cebu-based disc jockey) Julian Say, her boyfriend, not Kris," Marquez said.

"When Julian didn't stand up for her, she wanted to go back to me. When their affair was not yet known, they were enjoying every minute of it. The guy could even come to Manila freely. Now, Alma is making up things to cover up for what she did."

Marquez said Moreno was in a violent mood at the preliminary hearing of their annulment case on Aug. 2.

"As it is now, there is no more respect between us," he said. "It will be hard to force us to live together again."

But he said he was not worried. "I'm sure (Alma) has been brainwashing my kids," he said. "I won't be surprised. But they will not hate me. Eventually, they'll know the truth. No matter how you hide something, the truth will always be known."

Marquez also expressed understanding for the sentiments of former President Aquino regarding her youngest daughter.

"I know how she feels (because I'm a) Mama's boy," he said.

'Kabit'

In "The Buzz," Kris dragged out a lurid account of her meeting with Moreno at the hospital.

She said she had to endure harsh words (*"Maaanghang, masasakit na salita at panlalait"*) from her boyfriend's wife, who called her thick-faced (*"ang kapal ng mukha mo"*) and a husband-grabber (*"mang-aagaw"*), and said she would remain the other woman all her life (*"isa kang kabit at* forever *kang magiging kabit"*).

She lamented how Moreno "made VJ (Moreno's youngest son with Marquez) face me and told him, 'That's the woman who took away your Daddy *(Yan ang babaeng umagaw sa* Daddy *mo')*."

"I will never put Josh in that kind of situation that will damage him for the rest of his life," Kris declared. "I will not give him that kind of trauma. I will shield him from every pain."

She also pointed out that she was never in the picture when Marquez and Moreno were still together.

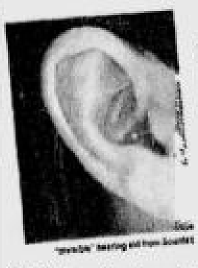
"How did I become close to Joey? It was because I did that interview with him last March 7, when he explained why he and (Alma) separated," Kris said.

"He even presented evidence to prove the relationship of (Alma) and Julian Say. Before that, I never had any casual conversation with Joey. She was the one who left him. In her interview with Boy (Abunda), I remember she even said to Joey, '*Palayain mo na ako* (Set me free).'"

Kris also said she had tried hard to be brave in explaining her side in front of TV cameras.

"But when it comes to my mom, I become a little girl again," she said. "Even if I haven't been an obedient daughter, I know my mom is still proud of me."

With a report from Juliet L. Javellana



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‘Running priest’ playing politics, says Pichay

From page A1

that I am evading the law, but I have fully complied with the law," Pichay said.

The lawmaker also alleged that the priest was being used by his nemesis, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, to make "false and malicious" issues against him.

Contrary to Reyes' statement, Pichay said he had already posted bail and had been arraigned by Quezon City Judge Elisa Sempio Dy.

He said the estafa case had all been settled, except for the submission of an affidavit of desistance by the complainant, Nora Tecson.

Pichay said he was a "victim" of a former business associate, Severino Tuason, who "mispresented (me) and the company in several key transactions."

During the hearing of the case, he said, it was established that Tuason had forged Pichay's signature on company documents and checks.

Tecson realized this so she filed an affidavit of desistance in his favor, he said.

"Father Reyes just wants to play politics when he should concentrate on his job of saving the souls of his parishioners or cleansing the Church of the immoral acts of some of the clergy," Pichay said.

He said the priest was being used as an "evil instrument" of Alvarez's smear campaign against him.

The congressman was one of the oppositors of Alvarez during the secretary's confirmation hearings at the Commission on Appointments.

Pichay said he tried to reach Reyes, but the priest refused to take his calls.

"The worst was that I heard he was gallivanting around the Batasan in the morning trying to get the sergeant-at-arms to serve the warrant of arrest against me when all the time I was trying to let him know that he was fed false information by Sonny Alvarez," Pichay said.

Mayor, 2 cops face kidnap raps

From page A1

and Palembang Mayor Labualas Mamansual were included in the kidnapping charges filed against members of the Abu Sufia kidnap gang after a ranking gang leader said the two officials participated in the abduction of Korean national Jae Keon-yoon and General Santos City hotelier Carlos Belonio.

In Nueva Ecija, Supt, Reynaldo de Guzman was alleged to have provided "logistical support" and financed the operations of the Red Vigilante Group (RVG), a group believed to be behind the abduction of 20 victims—12 of whom were killed.

De Guzman was implicated by Miguel de la Cruz, a confessed RVG member.

Senior Supt. Dominador Flores, Central Luzon intelligence chief, confirmed that De Guzman was being investigated. "Once a police officer is charged criminally, he automatically faces administrative proceedings," he said.

Flores furnished the INQUIRER with copies of De la Cruz's affidavit and the official charge sheet against De Guzman and other suspected RVG members.

But the INQUIRER learned yesterday that De la Cruz, the principal witness, has been missing since June. De la Cruz had implicated De Guzman, among others, in an affidavit executed on May 8.

Jae-Belonio kidnap

The original accused in the Jae-Belonio kidnapping case were Abu Bandan, Abdulsalim Piana, Hadji Amil Erbas, Usop Omar, Montaser Pala, Mike Colano and several other John Does. All have been arrested and are under police custody while awaiting trial.

Using an affidavit of Abu Sofia commander Salem Gogo, who claimed that Mamansual and Mangelen were among those who planned Jae's and Belonio's kidnapping, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Mindanao filed an amended information against the two.

Also included in the amended case were Chief Insp. Kadil Masahod, Sultan Kudarat Provincial Traffic chief, and Tuanadatu village chieftain Bansing Tuanadatu.

CIDG-12 chief Supt. Jose Pante told reporters that the motion to amend the original charge sheet against the Abu Sufia gang was filed in the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor's Office in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, on Friday.

Gogo claimed that Mamansual got a big chunk of the P6 million ransom while Mangelen got P250,000. Gogo said his gang only received P1.5 million from the payoff.

But speaking in a press briefing the day before the filing, Mamansual branded Gogo's statement as full of blatant lies.

He said he had merely facilitated the safe release of hostages from the hands of the kidnappers.

Mangelen could not be reached for comment. Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, chief of the Central Mindanao Police, said Mangelen was relieved as Sultan Kudarat police chief last week.

Executed victims

The RVG was allegedly behind three separate abductions of 20 suspected drug pushers, including an environment official and his 22-year-old son, in Jaen and Gapan, Nueva Ecija, last year. Ten of the victims were executed.

De Guzman was charged only in the abduction and supposed killing of Julio Alejo, 48, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and his son Julius. The charge was based on De la Cruz's affidavit.

Composed of former members of the New People's Army, the RVG was also believed to be behind 17 other cases of abduction and summary execution of suspected drug pushers in the province, Flores said.

He said the group was formed in the 1980s for the military's counterinsurgency operations and was later tapped by the Philippine National Police.

"By 1998, the members had already become idle and began to engage in criminal activities such as kidnap-for-ransom, guns-for-hire, and vigilante operations," he told the INQUIRER.

Besides receiving logistical support from Superintendent De Guzman, the group was also financed by one Victor Ong and headed by Ricardo Peralta, investigation showed.

Last year, Arthur Serna, a former DENR official in Nueva Ecija, allegedly tapped the group to abduct and kill the Alejos, supposedly claiming that the father was a big-time drug pusher.

Heavily armed RVG members led by Peralta allegedly abducted Alejo and his son on Oct. 7, 2001 in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, documents showed.

In his affidavit, De la Cruz said he had seen Superintendent De Guzman visit the group's safe house on at least three occasions between September and the first week of October 2001. He said the officer would arrive in a maroon Toyota Land Cruiser.

"I would see him giving money to Ric Peralta for our daily expenses," he said in Filipino.

De la Cruz also identified Ong as RVG's "boss," providing the group with firearms and financing its operations.

Missing witness

But because De la Cruz had gone missing after being released on bail, the case has not moved, Senior Supt. Christopher Laxa said. Laxa is CIDG chief for Central Luzon.

According to Laxa, De la Cruz's family had reported that the witness had received death threats but could not say from whom.

"The case may not progress because the witness (De la Cruz) has gone into hiding," Laxa told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

De Guzman has not been relieved as Jaen police chief. Senior Supt. Raul Bacalzo, Nueva Ecija police director, said he was aware of the nature of the case but was not privy to recent developments in the case.

Supt. Julio de Luna, operations chief of the Nueva Ecija police command, said De Guzman is on official study leave and is taking an officers' senior executive course in Fort Bonifacio in Makati City.

De Luna said De Guzman would be away for 10 months.

In Jaen, SPO4 Danilo Eduardo, chief of the police force's investigation section, said they had not heard of any illegal activity of their police chief.

"*Mabait na hepe siya* (He is a very kind police chief)," Eduardo said. ***With reports from Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Slain cop . . .

From page A1

more jobs to tame poverty.

Benedicto had been in the Philippine National Police for 11 years. He dreamt of ridding the country of criminals so his three young children could grow up without fear of being assaulted while going to school, friends say.

That dream abruptly ended on Aug. 7 when the five-man robbery gang planted 14 fatal stab wounds in his head and body before finally taking his life with his own gun.

Instead of using his car, Benedicto had chosen to take the three-hour bus ride from Pampanga to surprise his wife for their 13th wedding anniversary.

Even though outnumbered, Benedicto managed to wound four of the robbers before he was murdered in a pool of blood.

"It was a brutal, painful death for my son and when I saw his body . . . My manhood left me," his father Benjamin, himself a decorated retired police master sergeant, said while fighting off tears. "I wished it had been me."

"Oliver was a gentle officer who was only tough on criminals and suspects who roam the streets, and my only consolation is that it was an honorable death, a hero's death," the father said, gesturing toward his son's flag-draped white metal coffin in a tiny garage.

Indeed, neighborhood toughs sporting colorful tattoos, women and young grimy children, barangay officials and the top police brass in Manila trooped to Oliver's wake, vowing to give the hero "swift justice."

"Never mind human rights for the criminals, we need to get them. They killed one of Metro Manila's finest," a police official said.

Benedicto was with the Northern Police District before he was transferred to San Fernando, Pampanga.

Retired Senior Supt. Florenio Angeles recalled that Benedicto had begged him to convince his father to let him join the force because he wanted "to leave his mark" in the profession.

"Maybe now he has found that mark, even in death. He would be a rallying call against criminality," the father said as he advised human rights advocates and detractors of the government's anti-crime drive that sometimes "swift justice means swift death" for criminals. **AFP**

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

RP polo team bags Asia plum

HONG KONG—The Philippines beat Hong Kong, 11-9, to capture the 4th Asia Pacific International Invitational water polo crown recently at the Kowloon Park Swimming Complex here. Teodoro Roy Canete, who emerged the tourney's top scorer with 12 goals to bag the most valuable player award, sparked the Filipinos to victory.

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BLEAK CHRISTMAS

PBA sportscasters unpaid since June

Make-up artists, statisticians also grumbling; walkout averted

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DEL ROSARIO

HENSON

EALA

ONE of these days, you may yet discover your favorite PBA sportscaster like Quinito Henson or Ed Picson missing from your TV screens.

That is, if they don't get their back wages for more than two months now.

Henson, Picson, Noli Eala, Anthony Suntay and TJ Manotoc, the guys regularly doing the PBA games on IBC 13, have not received a single penny for their services from Vic del Rosario since June this year.

Del Rosario owns Viva Vintage, the outfit contracted by the Philippine Basketball Association beginning in 2000, to air the PBA games.

Bobong Velez used to control Vintage, the original franchise-holder of the league's TV coverage. Velez was forced to secede his controlling interests to Viva's Del Rosario when Velez's Vintage got hit by the economic crunch near the advent of the new millennium.

Under Velez's watch, dating back to 1985, there was not a single instance when the wages of TV talents and other Vintage hands were not paid on time.

Although Velez is chair of Viva Vintage, it is Del Rosario, who also owns the movie outfit Viva Films and Video City, who calls the shots in the merger.

Del Rosario is the Viva Vintage president and CEO (chief executive officer). Veteran TV man Ronnie Nathanielsz is COO (chief operating officer).

When contacted, a Viva official said he would speak on condition of anonymity.

"I was told our boss (Del Rosario) is doing everything to remedy the situation," he said.

Aside from the sportscasters mentioned, also unpaid of their wages since June are Viva Vintage talents Paulo Trillo, Janelle So and Chiqui Roa. Others include coaches Leo Isaac and Yeng Guiao, who were hired as analysts.

Tommy Manotoc, who used to do color for PBA games, resigned some months back. The reason, among others, was his differences of opinion with Nathanielsz about the manner with which to treat several teams when a TV coverage is on. At one point, the two were seen in a shouting match while arguing over a point.

Others without their wages since June are other employees like make-up artists, statisticians, cameramen and other utility personnel on hand during PBA games.

"Some of them receive only P300 a day," said the Viva source. "They work only three times a week. And they have families to feed."

He said the wage issue has hit them November of last year yet.

"Many of us received our pay for November and December only last February," he said. "You can just imagine how bleak many of us spent our Christmas last year."

The last time they received their wages was on May 30.

"But only after we made a strong appeal to Boss Vic (Del Rosario)," said the Viva source.

The sportscasters have prepared another letter addressed to Del Rosario to appeal for the release of their back wages. Drafted yesterday, it would be finalized today and delivered to Del Rosario "within the week."

Some weeks back, two sportscasters almost walked out from their TV coverage. "Stunningly," said the Viva source, "upon the instigation yet of one of Mr. Del Rosario's most trusted officials."

In a meeting recently among the aggrieved sportscasters, they nixed the idea of handing Del Rosario a demand letter.

"That would sound too legalistic," the INQUIRER source quoted one sportscaster as saying. "So, they adopted the friendlier way—appeal anew for the release of their wages for June and July."

It was also learned that Viva Vintage's debts to the PBA is "almost close to P200 million already."

A top PBA official told the INQUIRER "we support the plight of the sportscasters and other affected Viva employees. We will be by their side up to the end."

The PBA is now shopping for a new outfit to air its games beginning next year.

Bernardino summons Bayno

Tough times for outspoken Talk N Text coach

By June Navarro

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Shell vs Red Bull

BAYNO

OUTSPOKEN Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno is expected to draw stiff fines from the PBA Commissioner's Office for his harsh words against the league and its officials.

Bayno branded the PBA as the "San Miguel Basketball Association" on Sunday night and charged the league's referees of obviously favoring the Beermen in their past three outings dating back last conference.

PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino has already summoned the American coach, who is expected to show up at Bernardino's office today at 10:30 in the morning.

A PBA insider said Bayno would definitely be penalized as it was the second time the fearless coach criticized the league of favoring the Beermen.

Bayno was already admonished by Bernardino last conference for throwing innuendos at the PBA delving on officiating.

This time Bayno included Bernardino in his tirade. He charged the commissioner of turning in a blind eye on the dastardly acts committed by San Miguel Beer import Mario Bennet during the Talk N Text-San Miguel quarterfinal tussle last conference.

Reacting to Bayno's latest round of diatribes, San Miguel team manager Robert Non said they are leaving everything to the Commissioner's Office.

"We don't want to argue with him (Bayno). It's up to the commissioner what to do with his accusations," Non told the INQUIRER.

Meanwhile, defending champion Batang Red Bull tackles Shell today at the start of the quarterfinals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Completing the eliminations with a pacesetting 7-3 win-loss record, the top-seeded Thunder battle the eighth-ranked Turbo Chargers enjoying a twice-to-beat edge in the 7 p.m. tipoff.

Their head-to-head collision this conference, however, saw the Turbo Chargers squeak past the Thunder, 82-81, giving Perry Ronquillo's wards enough psychological leverage to overcome tough odds.

"But that was in the eliminations. This is now the quarterfinals and Red Bull is hard to beat in the playoffs," said Ronquillo.

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Woods coasts to 4th win, ready for PGA next week

WOODS: Good warmup for the last of the four majors. AP

By Larry Lage

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods shot a 2-under 70 Sunday to win the Buick Open by four shots at 17 under. It was his 33rd PGA Tour victory and fourth in his last eight starts.

Esteban Toledo, who began the final round one stroke behind Woods, stayed with the world's best golfer through 12 holes, but then collapsed with three straight bogeys.

Toledo shot a 1-over 73 to finish at 13 under, tied for second with Mark O'Meara (68), Brian Gay (68) and Fred Funk (71). It matched Toledo's best finish.

Woods insisted he was at Warwick Hills to win and not just practice for the fourth major. He opened with a 67, shot a season-best 63 on Friday and a 71 Saturday.

Although he missed a chance to win the Grand Slam with his 28th-place tie at the British Open three weeks ago, Woods has an opportunity to do something no other golfer has, beginning Thursday at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota.

Woods, who won this year's Masters and U.S. Open, will be the first to win three majors in a year twice if he wins the PGA Championship. Ben Hogan did it in 1953 and Woods, who has won seven of the last 12 majors, did it two years ago.

He can also be the first player to win a major after winning a tournament the previous week since Sandy Lyle won the Greater Greensboro Open and the Masters in 1988.

Woods is 25-2 in PGA Tour events when leading or tied for the lead after 54 holes. Since 1958, just 16 of 38 players who have at least shared the lead after 54 holes have won the Buick Open.

Woods and Toledo were essentially engaged in match play while the rest of the field failed to threaten them, until the former professional boxer bogeyed Nos. 13-15.

On No. 1, a hole he double-bogeyed on Saturday, Woods opened a two-stroke lead with a birdie.

Toledo got the stroke back with a 20-foot birdie putt on No. 4. Woods missed a 6-foot putt to bogey 5 and fall into a tie at 15 under.

Woods went back ahead by a stroke on No. 6 with a 40-foot birdie putt. The crowd roared when he punched the air–as he has done countless times–with his right fist. Both players birdied No. 7.

Toledo allowed Woods to go ahead by two strokes when he missed a 5-foot putt at No. 9, but got the shot back with a birdie on the next hole.

Refusing to let Toledo's confidence grow, Woods put his tee shot a foot from the pin at the par-3 11th, and made the birdie for another two-stroke lead.

Toledo bounced back with a birdie on 12 to pull within a stroke before falling apart with bogeys at Nos. 13 and 14, among the easiest holes, and at 15.

Woods double-bogeyed 17 to fall to 17 under, but was still three strokes ahead. Toledo bogeyed 18.

Woods is playing the week before a major for the fourth time and all of those tournaments have been the Buick Open, which he won for the first time.

Phil Mickelson, who will have another chance to win his first major at Hazeltine, had an erratic week. He made 24 birdies, 10 bogeys and three double bogeys to finish in a tie for 29th at 8 under.

Defending PGA Championship winner David Toms (71) finished tied for 10th at 11 under. ***AP***

Sinfuego, pal pace Mizuno Challenge

RICHARD Sinfuego fired a three-under-par 65 yesterday and steered his Sta. Elena partnership with Felix Fernando to a four-stroke lead at the start of the first Mizuno-PGAP Two-Man Challenge at Aguinaldo.

With Fernando's four-over 72, the Sta. Elena duo totaled 137 to lead Villamor's fancied tandem of Robert Pactolerin and Rolando Marabe in the 36-hole event featuring the country's top pros.

Pactolerin tallied a one-under 67 that went with Marabe's 74.

Three teams shared third spot at 143. They are Vic Santia-Rodolfo Enema of Villamor, Roger Antonio-Max Nevaras of Logcom and Leo Serdenia-Juanito Pagunsan.

The 29 teams entered in the tourney which marks the return of the top pros to competitive action after a long while will play the alternate shots format today.

Aside from Mizuno, also supporting the Two-Man Challenge are MCC Stainless Steel, Moreta Shipping Lines Inc., Evercrest Batulao Golf Club Resort, Jess Bartolome of Fairways Cargo Movers, Nestle and Pete Panaligan of Pyramid Logistics and Trucking Corp.

The other notables in the field were Danny Zarate-Yukiharu Takahashi at 145, Tony Lascuna-Ricky Marcelo at 146 and Mars Pucay-Roger Diocares at 150. ***Jong Arcano***

8 jungolfers see action in HK today

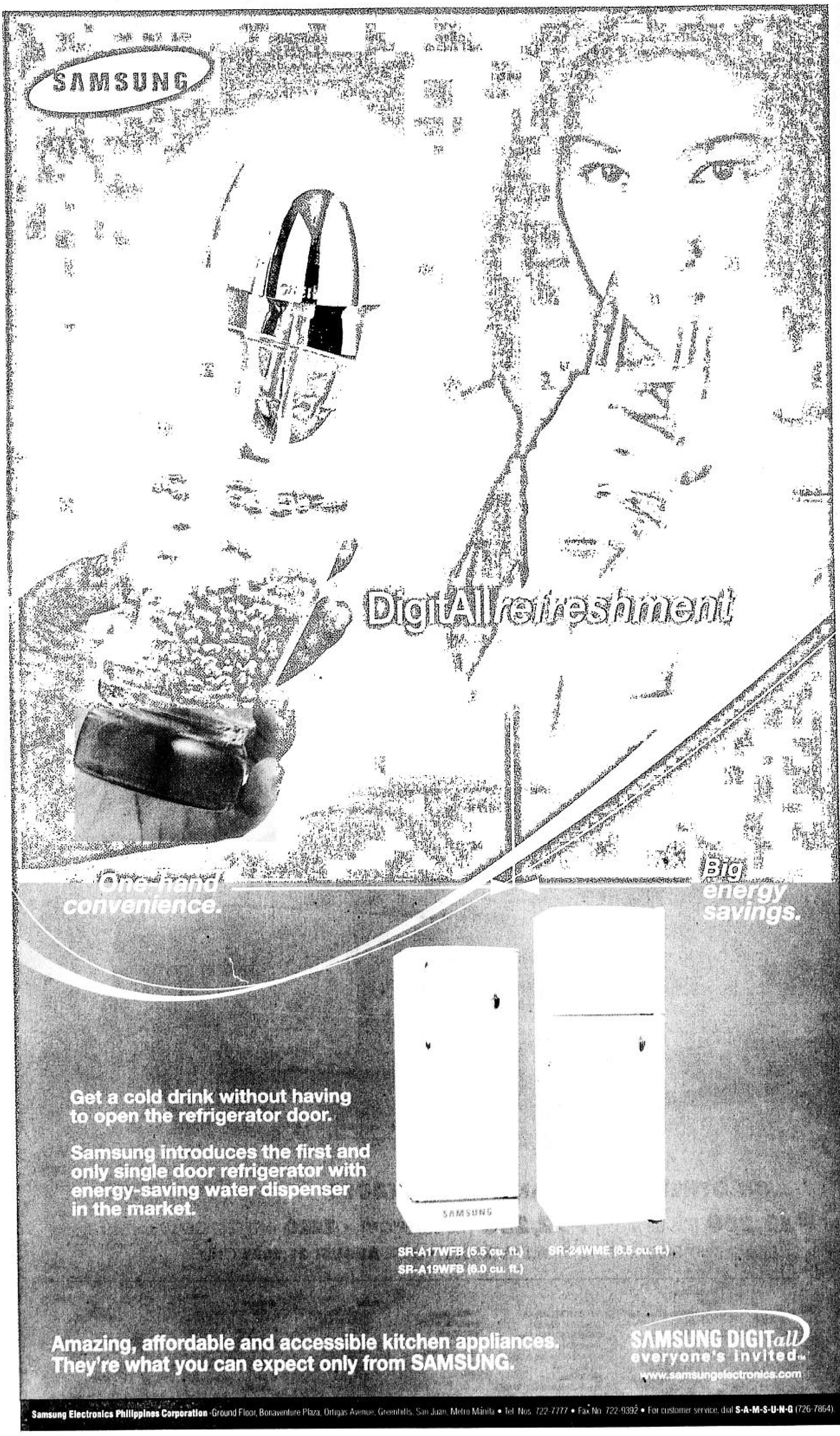
EIGHT local jungolfers will try to keep the country's winning streak in overseas competitions when they see action in the Hong Kong Junior Open golf championships set at the Discovery Bay course starting today.

Carrying the country's colors in the 54-hole tourney are brothers Don and DJ Padilla, sisters Debbie and Angela de Villa, Eugene Bunye, Ray Intal, Riva Galvez-Tan, Mac-Mac Arevalo and Mikee Camitoc.

They are seeking followup wins to the major feats recently gained by Dottie Ardina who won the Junior World and the US Kids tilts and Carl Santos Ocampo and Jayvie Agojo who topped their respective divisions in the Optimist International all in America.

Heading the delegation is Danny Padilla, vice president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

The Hong Kong Junior Open usually attracts the best jungolfers in no less than a dozen countries from all over the world.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Bustamante 9-ball champ

BUSTAMANTE: Regains championship form. FILE PHOTO

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante continued his successful performance in the international pro billiard circuit by winning the Coliseum Mall Peninsula 9-Ball Open Championship in Hampton, Virginia, USA, Sunday.

Bustamante defeated defending champion Johnny Archer, US, 15-10, in the finals of the star-studded tournament to win the title and $10,000 first prize. Archer received the $5,000 second prize.

Bustamante's path to the finals included wins over Nick Schulman, Frankie Hernandez, Tony Robles, and Nells Feijen leading up to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Bustamante defeated Jimmy Wetch.

Bustamante called his sponsor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat to report his win and thank the Philippine Olympic Committee for choosing him as standard bearer of the RP delegation to the forthcoming Asian Games in Korea. He said he is greatly honored and will skip the prestigious US Open in September to play for his country in the Games.

Among those who competed in the Peninsula Open were his Puyat Sports teammate Efren "Bata" Reyes, Americans Earl Strickland and Corey Deuel, and Finland's Mika Immonen, like Reyes, is a former world pool champion.

Reyes, who placed fifth after losing 12-15 to Archer in the quarterfinals, defeated Strickland, 15-8, in the second round and knocked out the temperamental American in the single elimination tournament. Reyes' win against Strickland was "sweet revenge" for his friend Bustamante who lost to Strickland in the finals of the 2002 World Pool Championship in Cardiff last month.

The Peninsula Open was Bustamante's fourth title this year. The others were the Japan Open in Tokyo, IBC World Tour in Munich, Germany, and Motolite International 9-Ball Challenge at the Araneta Coliseum.

NCAA OFFICIATING

Mapua walks out; Benilde declared winner

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
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PCU	7	2
SSC	6	2
JRU	5	3
Letran	3	5
Mapua	3	6
San Beda	1	7
UPHR	1	8

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—CSB vs SBC (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (srs/srs)

COLLEGE of St. Benilde won by forfeiture, 20-0, after Mapua Institute of Technology walked out of the court yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

With eight seconds remaining and the Blazers ahead, 67-61, the Cardinals refused to resume play, charging NCAA game officials of giving them a raw deal.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim and the Cardinals decided to call it quits, pointing out that the referees failed to make the proper decision after a stream of technical fouls was slapped both teams.

Referees assessed a total of five technical fouls, three of which were slapped the Blazers, triggering confusion with respect to the number of freethrows that should be taken by each team.

St. Benilde's Al Magpayo was tagged with a double technical foul—an unsportsmanlike foul on Mapua's Edsel Feliciano and a technical foul for arguing the call.

Feliciano was also assessed a technical foul while teammate Jeffrey Martin got another for storming onto the court.

After no agreement had been reached, Lim decided to tow his Cardinals out of the playing court and put the game under protest.

NCAA management committee vice chair Frank Gusi of San Sebastian College said the league will resolve the issue today together with the referees, technical committee and representatives of participating schools.

In the first game, Philippine Christian University bucked the absence of its five gunners and shot down University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 72-70.

Floirendo, Silverio share G.Prix honors

ROSARIO, Batangas—Team Fujitsu-Tom's-Shell Racing posted a big sweep after lead drivers Vincent Floirendo and Jojo Silverio shared honors in Rounds 5 and 6 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship Sunday in the 2002 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Their victories snapped Caltex Havoline-Autoplus skipper Jody Coseteng's four racing-winning streak in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through General Manager Ver angelo.

Floirendo, a two-time Enduro Race champion, scored the biggest upset as he beat Coseteng to post his first win after a year-long hiatus.

RP downs China, tops cagefest

HONG KONG—RP-Burlington, drawing inspiration from the Filipino workers that came in droves, overwhelmed defending champion Guandong-China, 88-68, to win the Super League Kung Seung Cup Invitational Championships at the South Orn Gym, Chanwai here.

RP-Burlington's main man Romel Adducul, whose consistent performance earned him the Most Valuable Player award of the tournament, credited the team's success to teamwork and hardwork.

RP-Burlington, which was supported by Accell, Burlington, Philippine Sports Commission and Air Freight 21, had earlier disposed of Malaysia and defending champion Hong Kong, which was reinforced by five naturalized Chinese players.

"This is sweet victory for us. We dedicate this to our *kababayans* here who supported us all the way and to Filipinos back home," said coach Johnny Tam, who was ably assisted by coach Ching-ching Marcelino.

With the taller Chinese pounding its defense on Adducul, the rest of the Nationals stepped up in the offense to shock the defending champions. Streak-shooting Mark Magsumbol found his range from the outside to lead RP-Burlignton's offense with 23 points. Jean Marc Pingris and Ranidel de Ocampo contributed 14 and 12, respectively.

The Filipinos were successful in offsetting their height disadvantage, using a very effective running game to take control from the onset. They took the first quarter, 26-11, and finished the first half on top, 47-34.

The Scores:

RP-BURLINGTON 88—Magsumbol 23, Adducul 17, Pingris 14, De Ocampo 12, Sotto 8, Vergara 5, Reroma 4, Calacar 3, Caceres 2.

GUANDONG-CHINA 68—Song 21, Zhang 15, Lim 14, Jiang 6, Huang 5, xiao 3, Yan4.

Quarterscores: 26-11; 47-34; 69-46-88-68.

Philippine Army defeats Kaya FC, 3-0

DEFENDING champion Philippine Army opened its campaign in the 2nd Yutilco-Army International Invitational Football Club with a big bang Sunday by blasting highly rated Kaya FC, 3-0, at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

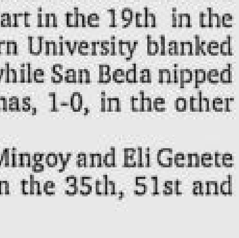
Nestorio Margarese knocked in two goals, one in each half, to spark the Armymen's impressive triumph in the tourney sponsored by Utilco International Trading Corp. headed by Carlos "Butch" Webber and Philippine Army.

Margarese struck in th 27th and 77th minutes after Nolan Madali had broken the ice in the 19th to get a good start in the 19th in the First Division. Far Eastern University blanked the H. PAF Eagles, 3-0, while San Beda nipped University of Santo Tomas, 1-0, in the other opening matches.

Dean Victorino, Jake Mingoy and Eli Genete produced FEU's goals in the 35th, 51st and 71st, respectively.

PSA Foundation long overdue

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

NOW is the ripe time for the 52-year-old Philippine Sportswriters Association to establish a foundation for the future maintenance of its members. And incumbent president Bert Cuevas of the Manila Standard would do well to mark his first year in office by spearheading the creation of the first ever PSA Foundation which could provide, among others, the members' basic needs like educational, sickness, disability and death benefits.

Much respected sportsman Putch Puyat, renowned patron of billiards, is amenable to the idea, saying the laudable project could get going with the staging of a benefit billiards blockbuster featuring Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, two of the most famous names in world pool at present.

"Bata and Django are our pride and inspiration," said billiards fans of two pool greats. "They are truly amazing because of their limitless skills, strong personal discipline and serious dedication to their sport." And, if I may add, even though they did not receive a single centavo from the government in their various international campaign, they did the country proud by consistently winning major tournaments in grand fashion, earning in the process universal respect and appreciation. Both have been aptly honored by the PSA.

Through the years, the PSA is known for taking the lead in various worthy activities, including the staging of the "Fiesta Fistiana," a popular annual boxing benefit card for disable Filipino boxers. It is also known for holding the PSA Awards Night, a much-awaited affair which honors the top athletes and organizations of the year.

The PSA, the oldest organization of Filipino journalists, was founded in 1949, with the late Jimmie Lacsamana, sports editor of the Manila Daily Bulletin as president. The country's who's who in sports journalism composed the first batch of officers and members, among them Zacarias "Taby" Tabaniag, Evening News, vice president; Ricky Llanos, Manila Times, treasurer; Teddy C. Benigno, Philippine Herald, secretary; and Filemon Tutay (Free Press), Enrique Romualdez (Times), Ernie Singson (Bulletin), George Wong (Commercial News), Willie Hernandez (dzPI, dzRH), Ben Peñaranda (Herald), Eddie Ticzon (Times), Henry Quema (Herald), Ralph Mendoza (Herald), Pete Hernandez (Chronicle), Orlando Aquino (Charter), Johnny Balonzo (Evening News), Juan Quesada (Herald), founding members; and Hank Myers (Chronicle) and Jessie Ortiz (Voz de Manila), associate members.

The PSA Awards Night has been held annually since 1950 except in 1972 to 1981. The association revived the tradition in 1982 under my presidency, with Bowling World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno emerging as the Athlete of the Year.

UP questions FEU's No. 1 rookie

By Dennis U. Eroa

UAAP basketball continued to be buffeted by controversy yesterday as University of the Philippines questioned the eligilibity of a leading rookie from Far Eastern University, a charge which will rock the standings if the protest is upheld.

An INQUIRER source said UP had alleged that Arwind Santos, a frontrunner in the rookie of the year award, is ineligible to play for violating a UAAP rule which prohibits a player from playing in a commercial league.

The UAAP rule says that a cager who played for a commercial league before the season must go through a one-year residency to become eligible.

"Santos saw action in a commercial tournament (Cebu Basketball League) before the start of this year's UAAP. UP has already submitted the necessary papers to back up its claim," the source said.

"Being a Pampangueño, Santos saw action for Guardo-Pampanga in the week-long tournament."

This is the second time in less than a week that the UAAP got hit by a controversy.

The league's technical committee came under fire when it suspended two-time MVP Rich Alvarez, whose suspension spoiled the thrill of the highly anticipated Ateneo-La Salle match on Saturday that saw the Archers win, 70-60.

Last year, the board, then headed by FEU's Anton Montinola, also looked into the eligibility of La Salle's Mark Cardona. Cardona went on to win rookie of the year honors after the board found nothing wrong in his record.

The board had investigated Cardona's academic records thoroughly. However, it didn't publicly divulge its findings. Cardona has become a clutch player for La Salle and played a key role for the Archers' victory over the Eagles at the Big Dome Saturday.

If Santos is guilty as charged, FEU will forfeit its won games (versus UP and NU).

The Maroons will improve their record to 4-3, with NU getting one win in seven outings. FEU will finish last with a 0-7 slate.

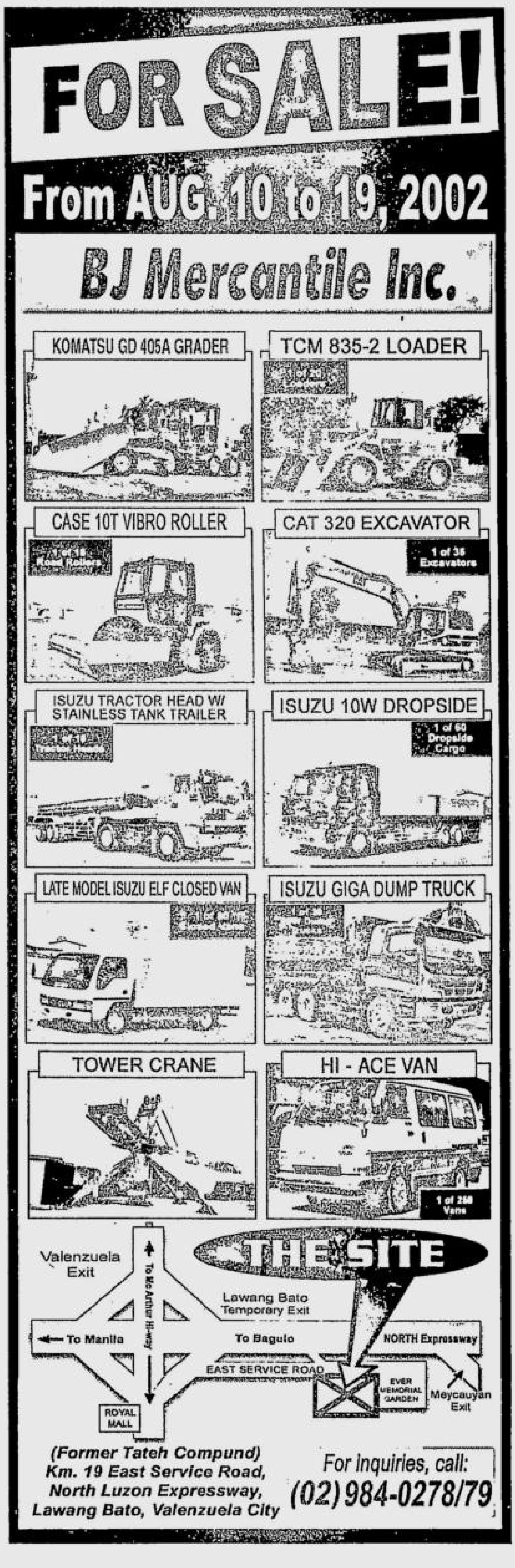
SPORTSWATCH

Rubin upsets Davenport

MANHATTAN BEACH, California—Chanda Rubin of the United States upset No. 3 American Lindsay Davenport 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-3 to win the JPMorgan Chase Open on Sunday in a final between two players making comebacks from knee surgery. Davenport served for the match in the second set after trailing 3-0, but Rubin broke back and went on to beat the woman she used to compete against in the 12-and-under division. "She was better than me in the 12-and-under," said Davenport, who holds an 8-3 career advantage against Rubin and hadn't lost to her since 1995.

Moya overpowers Hewitt

MASON, Ohio—Carlos Moya, showing the form that once had him ranked No. 1 in the world, upset Lleyton Hewitt, the current No. 1, 7-5, 7-6 (5) Sunday in the final of the $2.95 million Cincinnati Masters Series. "I knew my hardcourt game was not bad, but I didn't expect to win this tournament," Moya said. He called it "a dream come true." Moya, the French Open champion in 1998, was ranked No.1 in the world briefly in 1999, then injured his back. Although he won titles at Acapulco, Bastad and Umag this year, his best previous finish in a major tournament was as the runner-up to Juan Carlos Ferrero at Monte Carlo in April.



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ROSALES

Rosales drops to 4th, but is ₱3.3 million richer

By Jong Arcano

AS Australian star Karrie Webb charged her way to a Super Slam, Jenny Rosales' own crack at a career breakthrough got blown away yesterday by the strong afternoon winds in the $1.5 million Weetabix Women's British Open at the Turnberry Golf Club in Scotland.

With a final-round one-over-par 73, Rosales dropped to a share for fourth after sharing the third-round lead in the season's concluding major.

But Rosales still left the battlefield smiling as she scored her third Top 10 finish this season, counting her No. 7 placing in last month's $3 million U.S. Open. and No. 5 showing in the Wegman's Rochester International.

Scrambling pars on the first two holes gave Rosales not the kind of start she had wanted. And though she managed to recover from the errant shots in the heavy rains, the badly-needed birdies never came.

Webb's 66 left the rest fighting for second place.

The 27-year-old Webb, recovering from a slump, wound up at 15-under 273, edging Australian Michelle Ellis and Spain's Paula Marti by two strokes.

EPSC

WEBB

Then came Rosales, first round leader Candie Kung, Jang Jeong and Catrin Nilsmark at 277.

Rosales added another $64,528 (about P3.3 million) to her winnings this season for a total of $263,890.

That brought her up to at least two rungs higher in the money list from her current position of 29th, boosting her chances of getting into the Samsung World Championship won by Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin last year.

The event is reserved for the LPGA's Top 30 players in the money list after the regular season.

Delasin wound up sharing 26th after struggling with a 75 for a 286. She pocketed $14,284.

"Jenny remained upbeat despite the loss," said Jenny's mother, Lourdes. ``She felt she gave it her best shot and it's just that Karrie (Webb) regained her confidence in time. *Hindi daw para sa kanya* but Jenny said she enjoyed every moment of the final round where she played in the final pairing."

Webb picked up her sixth major championship in four years after winning the British Open in her rookie season in 1995, repeating the feat in 1997.

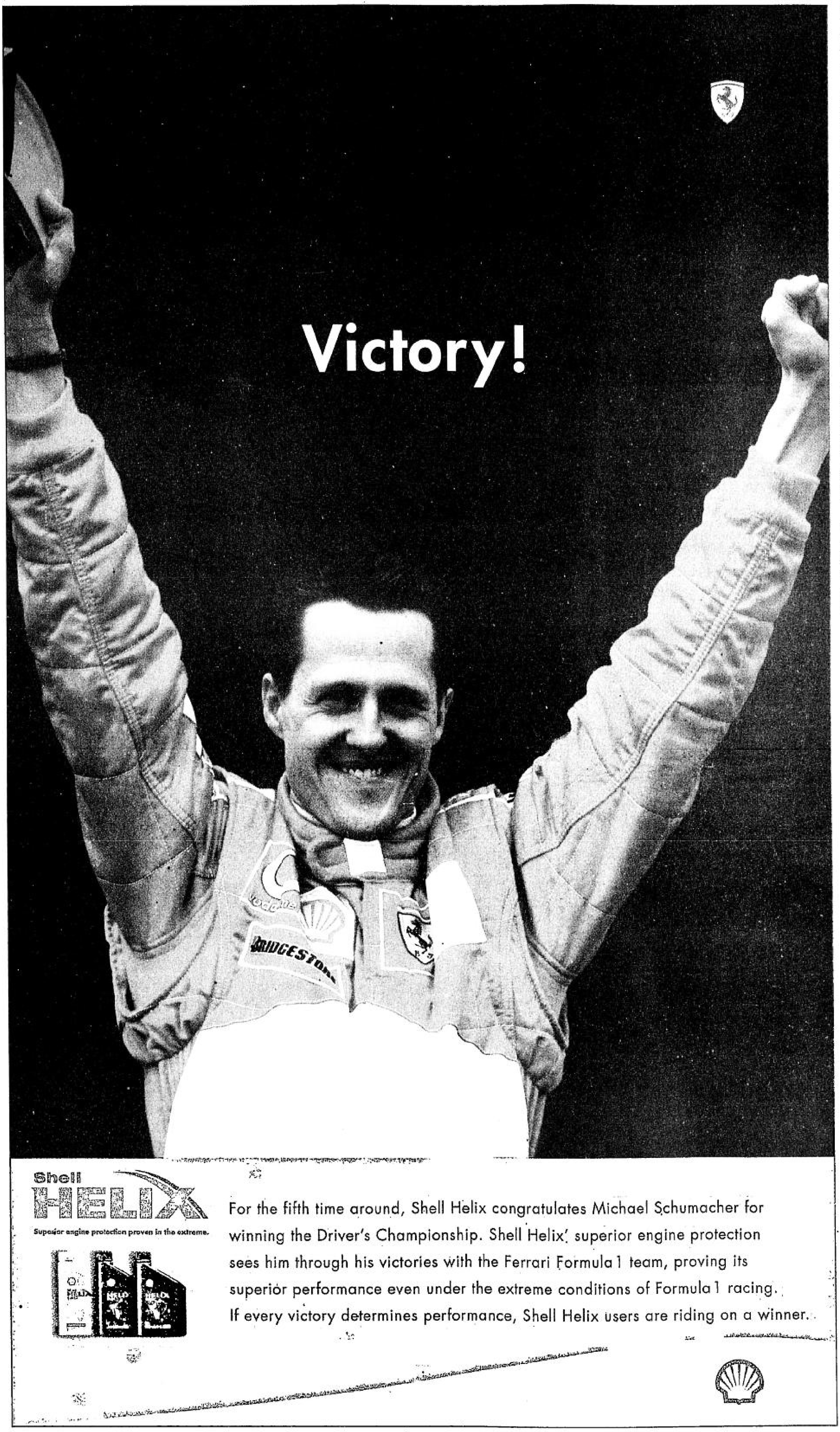
The British Open became a major last year, replacing the defunct du Maurier Classic.

Webb had already completed a career Grand Slam by winning the du Maurier, the Nabisco Championship, the U.S. Open and the LPGA Championship.

By winning the British Open, she completed the "Super Slam" of five different majors accomplished in five years.

The final results:

1 Karrie Webb 66-71-70-66 273 -15 $236,383
2 Michelle Ellis 69-70-68-68 275 -13 $129,629
2 Paula Marti 69-68-69-69 275 -13 $129,629
4 Jeong Jang 73-69-66-69 277 -11 $64,528
4 Catrin Nilsmark 70-69-69-69 277 -11 $64,528
4 Candie Kung 65-71-71-70 277 -11 $64,528
4 Jennifer Rosales 69-70-65-73 277 -11 $64,528
8 Meg Mallon 69-71-68-70 278 -10 $38,380
8 Beth Bauer 70-67-70-71 278 -10 $38,380
8 Carin Koch 68-68-68-74 278 -10 $38,380
11 Sophie Gustafson 69-73-69-68 279 -9 $30,120
11 Se Ri Pak 67-72-69-71 279 -9 $30,120
13 Angela Stanford 69-70-69-72 280 -8 $25,290
13 Pat Hurst 69-70-69-72 280 -8 $25,290
13 Natalie Gulbis 69-70-67-74 280 -8 $25,290
16 Beth Daniel 73-68-68-74 283 -5 $21,884
16 Tina Barrett 67-70-70-76 283 -5 $21,884
18 Fiona Pike 72-73-67-72 284 -4 $18,453
18 Jean Bartholomew 71-72-72-69 284 -4 $18,453
18 Marine Monnet 71-70-70-73 284 -4 $18,453
18 Jane Geddes 71-69-70-74 284 -4 $18,453
18 Wendy Doolan 70-69-71-74 284 -4 $18,453
18 Rachel Teske 67-74-68-75 284 -4 $18,453
24 Suzann Pettersen 72-71-72-70 285 -3 $15,632
24 Patricia Meunier-Lebouc 69-71-69-76 285 -3 $15,632
26 Dorothy Delasin 70-71-70-75 286 -2 $14,284
26 Emilee Klein 68-71-72-75 286 -2 $14,284
26 Elisabeth Esterl 67-71-72-76 286 -2 $14,284
29 Yu Ping Lin 73-69-74-71 287 -1 $12,429
29 Kelli Kuehne 75-67-71-74 287 -1 $12,429
29 Cristie Kerr 72-71-69-75 287 -1 $12,429
29 Brandie Burton 71-70-71-75 287 -1 $12,429
29 Iben Tinning 71-69-71-76 287 -1 $12,429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WAZZZZUP ?
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Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MABINI	THINKERS W/ JOGRAD J BROTHERS/ JAMM EDGE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MR. ROXY BROWNIE / MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
LIVE STATION	MULATTO 44 WEST AVE., QC	BIKINI OPEN AUG. 14 ☎373.5677
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	RATED ACT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST	BRIDGES VIEW	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522-0429
tropical FOREST Cafe · Grill · Restaurant TM KALAW, LUNETA, MANILA	HAIZA BAND	LUTO NI NANAY BUFFET P 295 MON-FRI 6PM-10PM ☎400-7438/39

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ERIK ARAZAS

VICTIM AND SUSPECT
Nida Blanca's daughter Kaye Torres (second from left), accompanied by lawyer Harriet Demetriou, shows no emotion even when she's within striking distance of Philip Medel, accompanied by lawyer Salvador Panelo.

Go sued trader for P40 M

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER Manila councilor Chika Go had filed a P40-million damage suit against a Chinese businessman who had borrowed money from him to set up a business at the Clark Field free trade zone in Pampanga.

Case investigator SP04 Alfredo Salazar said police has information that Go might have been killed because of this lawsuit.

Salazar said Go's quarrel with the businessman is the most plausible lead so far in the killing.

Go was killed in an ambush on Saturday. Two men fired shots at Go's Mitsubishi Pajero while it was stuck in traffic on Reina Regente Street in Binondo. Go died from five gunshot wounds in the body at the Metropolitan Hospital.

Shortly before he was killed, Go had given a "file" exposing a human smuggling syndicate to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she visited the National Bureau of Investigation, according to Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

Ong said a Cabinet member, a mayor and a

GO/ p. A22

NBI: Change charge vs Strunk to murder

A22

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NBI: Change charges vs Strunk to murder

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday asked the Department of Justice to amend the criminal charge lodged against Roger Lawrence Strunk, the American accused of killing his wife actress Nida Blanca, from parricide to murder.

During the preliminary investigation at the DOJ yesterday, NBI lawyer Romulo Asis declined to cite the reasons for the amendment when he asked the DOJ panel handling the Blanca case to allow the NBI and the Philippine National Police to amend the complaint they filed on July 17.

Asis' move surprised defense lawyers and media people because both parricide and murder carry the same penalty: reclusion perpetua (at least 40 years in prison) to death.

However, legal experts at the DOJ said the amendment of the charges was an NBI strategy to avoid legal technicalities expected to crop up in the indictment of Blanca's husband.

The experts said that for a case of parricide to prosper, the prosecution should prove the relationship of the accused to the victim, "while in a simple murder case, the government is not required to do that."

Blanca was married to Strunk on Feb. 5, 1981 on the same day she divorced her first husband, Victorino Torres.

Asis moved for the amendment of the charge as the NBI and the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group presented additional witnesses to bolster its case against Blanca's husband of 22 years.

The new witnesses presented to the DOJ included Nilo Gonzaga, Rogelio Saludin, immigration bureau security consultant Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar, TV reporters Connie and Mariz Umali, and two police officials.

The government panel also presented most of the 27 state witnesses.

Besides Strunk, the NBI-PNP also charged confessed killer Philip Medel Jr. with murder, while six others, including three security guards of the Atlanta Centre in San Juan where Blanca's body was found, were charged with obstruction of justice.

Friends and members of Blanca's family who were present at yesterday's hearing included daughter Kaye Torres and Blanca's mother Inocencia Acueza; and Luz Valdez and Nestor De Villa.

Medel, the man who stunned the country last year when he claimed that he murdered the popular actress on Strunk's orders, was mysteriously silent throughout the hearing.

Before the hearing ended, the panel led by Senior State Prosecutor Archimedes Manabat ordered the NBI to produce the additional evidence it earlier promised to submit.

Strunk lawyer Alma Mallonga tried to seek permission from the panel to force the NBI to immediately furnish her client with the evidence.

But Manabat junked the motion, saying the panel could not decide on evidence not yet presented to the panel. He also gave the NBI 15 more days to submit additional evidence.

He likewise gave defense lawyers 15 days to reply or file controverting evidence. The panel scheduled the next hearing for Sept. 12.

Mallonga also wanted to know the identity of the guard who allegedly saw Strunk in the house of retired general Galileo Kintanar, former military intelligence chief.

Kintanar's name was dragged into the case after a retired military official claimed it was Kintanar who was responsible for Medel's recantation.

Kintanar, who admitted that he paid the rent on Medel's apartment in Kamias, Quezon City, allegedly offered his help in handling Medel, but he denied any knowledge of the Blanca murder.

But NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the bureau is not inclined to invite Kintanar for questioning because they still do not have the goods on him.

"As of now, we have no plans of getting the statement of Kintanar," Wycoco said. He added that reports linking Kintanar to the murder are mere speculation "at this time."

VICTIM'S daughter meets accused at the preliminary investigation where Kaye Torres and Philip Medel find themselves within arm's reach of each other.

ERIK ARAZAS

Why Joma Sison changed his mind

IF YOU think that our policemen have a monopoly on inefficiency, think again.

The Italian carabinieri or police are as inefficient as, if not more inept than, the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Dr. Jane Marie B. Samonte of North Xavierville, Loyola Heights, Quezon City found this out the hard way when she went to Rome as a tourist.

***

Ms Samonte describes the carabinieri as "inefficient, apathetic, uncooperative and extremely stupid."

Our policemen might be inefficient at times but apathetic, uncooperative and extremely stupid they're not, especially to tourists. I should know. I was once a police reporter.

Anyway, Samonte was a victim of theft by people who posed as policemen. She lost $1,200 and her mother $1,000 to the thieves.

***

According to Samonte, they reported the theft to the central police station in Rome but were met with blank stares by investigators. "I felt I was talking to a wall," she said.

Even before she could finish her story to the desk officer, the cop said: "No English" pointing to his head.

"I no take report. My boss is visit in hospital. No take," the cop behind the desk said.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

"With those idiotic lines, we ended our Roman holiday," Ms Samonte said.

***

Exiled communist leader Jose Ma Sison made a complete turnaround in his order for the New People's Army to topple electric towers and lines.

He said it was just an analysis, not an order.

Joma Sison apparently developed cold feet and took back his directive to the NPA.

***

Why? Because he probably feared retaliation. But not from our government.

If not from our government, then from whom will the retaliation come? The United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Joma Sison knows that the CIA's dirty tricks department would go after him in the Netherlands if he didn't take back his directive to the NPA.

***

The United States considers the NPA a terrorist group.

Being such, the NPA is fair game to the CIA and other intelligence units of the US government.

And one of the most vulnerable persons in the CIA hit list would be Joma Sison who's on self-exile in the Netherlands.

***

To the NPA guerrillas who will read this column: Why do you continue to fall for what Joma Sison is saying?

He's having a grand time in the Netherlands while you go hungry, get sick and lay your lives on the line in the mountains.

What kind of leader would abandon his men when they're suffering?

***

Even if I don't agree with Satur Ocampo, I admire him.

He has not abandoned his comrades at the National Democratic Front (NDF) for the comforts of exile in another country.

Ocampo continues to wage his war against the "imperialists" through legitimate means-by becoming a legislator.

***

Commissioners Antonio Bernardo of internal revenue and Rene Banez of customs admit they cannot meet their revenue targets for the next five years. They said the collection targets are too high.

But they can meet the revenue targets if they have the political will.

All it takes is for the officials and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs to be less corrupt.

Billions of pesos in revenues are lost by the government because of corruption in the ranks of the BIR and customs bureau. Money supposed to go to the government ends up in the pockets of corrupt BIR and customs officials and employees.

***

It's high time our government leaders stopped being puppets of the Roman Catholic Church in trying to solve the population problem.

The church has been interfering in controlling the booming population which will hit 100 million in 10 years.

The church is preventing its faithful, who comprise the majority of the population, from using condoms and other family planning devices. The condom is the most effective tool in family planning.

***

Some of our legislators are right: the booming population is "a time bomb ready to explode."

It would serve the Catholic Church right if it would be a victim of the exploding bomb.

But the ones who will suffer from the exploding population are the future leaders, not the church.

Valerio wife free

By Agnes E. Donato

THE WIFE of slain Justice Jun Valerio, herself one of the accused in his killing, is now enjoying temporary freedom after a Quezon City judge allowed her to post bail.

Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court also dismissed a motion filed by the prosecution asking the judge to reconsider her order.

"Marimar" Valerio is charged with parricide, a non-bailable offense.

The National Bureau of Investigation earlier linked Valerio's killing to his wife's alleged affair with fellow accused SPO1 Antonio Cabador Jr.

Judge Yadao maintained that the testimony of prosecution witness Modesto Cabador, a cousin of Antonio, was "incredible."

"Strictly for purposes of the bail petition and without prejudice to any further and complete finding in the main case, the court, after carefully scrutinizing the testimony of the witnesses and likewise considering what appear in the records, is of the opinion that the guilt of the accused (Valerio) is not strong," Yadao said.

The judge cited Modesto's claim that Mrs. Valerio discussed with him and Antonio the killing of Justice Valerio in February 2000, on the day Modesto first met her.

Yadao recommended a bail of P200,000 for Mrs. Valerio's temporary freedom.

Valerio was shot several times in front of his residence in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City on March 19, 2000.

Coastal Road shootout

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE men on board a motorcycle shot dead PEA Tollway Corp. traffic officer Edwin Alojipan, 45, who had stopped them from entering the Coastal Road in Parañaque City on Sunday.

But before he was killed, Alojipan was able to shoot one of the suspects, who later died at the San Juan de Dios Hospital from three gunshot wounds in the head, police said.

Police arrested one suspect, construction worker Benjamin Blac, 35, but the third escaped.

Police believe the three men had just committed a robbery in Cavite when they tried to enter the Coastal Road. Two of them were armed with .45 pistols, police said.

The three men fired at Alojipan and a companion when they prevented them from entering the toll plaza in San Dionisio, Parañaque at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, said PO2 Anthony Alising.

He said Alojipan returned fire and hit one of the suspects.

Motorcycles, such as the red Kawasaki (TD-1742) the three men were using, are not allowed on the Coastal Road, Alising said.

Investigators have yet to determine how the third suspect escaped despite tight security at the toll plaza.

Go sued trader for P40M

From p. A21

police general were among the protectors of the syndicate, which is supposedly headed by the businessman that Go had slapped with the P40-million law suit.

"Chika Go issued his own death certificate when he gave the President that file," Ong said. The syndicate is allegedly involved in smuggling Chinese nationals into the country.

Ong said Go and the Chinese businessman used to be friends when the latter was renting an apartment unit at Go's Regina Garden 2 building on Reina Regente Street in Binondo.

Dante Jimenez, head of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, urged Congress to "investigate and uncover the VIPs" named (in the "file") as protectors of the syndicate. He said Go's family is planning to leave the country.

Ong said that after Go had filed the case against the businessman in 2000, the two men quarreled.

On May 21, 2000, two men on board a motorcycle ambushed Go and his family in Sampaloc, Manila while they were on their way to an evangelical church meeting in Quezon City.

Go survived the ambush while his daughter, then 17, and his driver were injured.

Manila police had said that drug traffickers were suspected to be behind the ambush.

Before that ambush, Go supposedly assisted police in the arrest of several drug traffickers in his building.

Ong said Go then asked for help from then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force chief Panfilo Lacson. She said that in a private meeting with Lacson in Camp Crame, Go gave the senator a letter that exposed the illegal activities of the businessman.

But Lacson supposedly gave the letter to his deputy, Cesar Mancao, who was one of the protectors of the businessman, Ong said.

Mancao then gave the letter to the businessman, who in turn filed a libel complaint against Go's wife Corazon, who had signed the letter, according to Ong.

She said Go was supposed to be one of her witnesses during the Senate hearings on Lacson's alleged criminal activities last year. He was supposed to testify against accusations that Ong was involved in human smuggling.

She said she met Go during the anti-drug operation Oplan Athena.

"We had surveillance and wiretapping reports about the (drug) money trail that led us to Go's building," Ong said.

"But it turned out that it was (the businessman) who was involved in drug trafficking," she added.

Ong said that a few hours before Go had met with the President on Aug. 2, he had complained to Ong that Mancao's men were trailing him.

Mayor Lito Atienza directed city police director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong to solve Go's killing.

Go served as as Manila's third district councilor from 1992 to 1995.

The mayor said in a press statement that he is concerned the killing could alarm residents and businessmen in Chinatown.

He said the police should give Go's family and the witnesses 24-hour protection.

A member of Lakas-NUCD, Go failed to get reelected as city councilor in 1998 and again in 2001.

With a report from Jerome Aning

'Girl' stabbed for being boy

By Philip C. Tubeza

APPEARANCES are deceiving.

Baker Jomie Panagasan, 23, learned this the hard way after he picked up what he had thought was a "goodtime girl" in Sta. Cruz, Manila before dawn yesterday.

When he realized the deceit and his mistake, the furious Panagasan stabbed the woman who turned out to be not a woman at all.

Panagasan, of Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila is now behind bars for stabbing Jonathan Esguerra, 22, also of Baseco Compound, in the neck and stomach, said investigators at the Sta. Cruz police station.

Police said Panagasan was looking for quick sex when he spotted Esguerra, who he didn't immediately realize was a man in drag.

They checked in at the Lion Hotel on Trinidad Street. But what was supposed to be a passionate encounter for Panagasan turned into a nightmare after Esguerra undressed.

Panagasan blew his top and pulled out not something else but a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed the other man.

Councilor wants probe of old Manila contracts

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA city councilor yesterday demanded an investigation of all lease contracts entered into by the city government which have become outdated or cumbersome.

Councilor Jhosep Lopez said many of the lease contracts involving city properties have been existing for decades and have become outdated.

Lopez, who chairs the city council's livelihood committee, said such contracts have become defective and disadvantageous.

The third district councilor said the rentals were not increased for a long time while the inflation rate increased many times.

"The city government continues to lose much income due to these contacts as a result of its failure to continuously review the existing leases," he said.

He said he has found out that some concessionaires have not been paying rentals on time and in many cases have defaulted on the payment of rentals and surcharges.

He named Park 'N' Ride Inc. and Dealco as some of the firms which have delayed paying their rent.

Park 'N' Ride operates a parking facility at the Mehan Gardens while Dealco manages the city slaughterhouse in Vitas, Tondo.

Young, naked and dead

THE BODY of a teenage girl, who could have been raped before she was strangled, was found yesterday morning in Muntinlupa, police said.

A black and white shoelace was tied around the girl's neck when residents found her body on a street corner in Bagong Paraiso Real in Bayanan at about 5:30 a.m. The girl was about 15 and was in a light brown shirt and orange shorts, said PO2 Marimel Tan of the Children and Women's Concern Desk. A pair of light brown sandals was also found near the body.

Scene of the Crime Operatives were trying to determine if the victim had been raped, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

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3 D' URAGONS	3 MEN IN BLACK 2 12:30, 2:30, 4:30	[illegible]	STUART LITTLE 2 11:40, 1:20, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00, 9:40, 11:20	3 STUART LITTLE 2
4 WINDTALKERS	4 STUART LITTLE 2	RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9PM	4 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
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8

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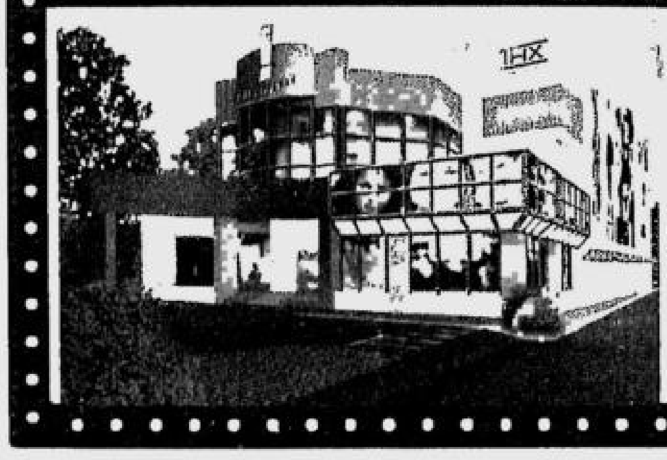

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9 ANG GALING-GALING MO
10 PAKISABI NA LANG...

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1 ABOUT A BOY
2 STUART LITTLE 2
3 PAKISABI NA LANG...
4 WINDTALKERS
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 D' URAGONS
7 8 LEGGED FREAKS
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10 SAGAD
11 MEN IN BLACK 2
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2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
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11 PAKISABI NA LANG...
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2 STUART LITTLE 2
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 KILLING ME SOFTLY
5 ABOUT A BOY
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11 ANG GALING-GALING MO
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2 STUART LITTLE 2
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3 ANG GALING-GALING MO
4 STUART LITTLE 2
5 KILING ME SOFTLY
6 D' URAGONS

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2 WINDTALKERS
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 D' URAGONS

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2 ABOUT A BOY
3 PAKISABI NA LANG...
4 D' URAGONS

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2 SORORITY BOYS
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2 ABOUT A BOY
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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How were you as a child? As a student?

Guest: *Tahimik lang ako sa klase, kaya marami akong kaibigan.*

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: Where did you get your acting talent—from real experiences with your family?

Guest: No, that does not anything with my family!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: Who is your favorite actor?

Guest: Local or imported?

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: What will you do to attain stardom?

Guest: Whatever it takes!

Host: Including taking off all your clothes?

Guest: Well, not in exactly.

(*Ay*, in exactly!)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on stock markets abroad—are they out of the slump, finally?

Co-host: Well, in Europe, there's a good sign: European stock market are bouncing slightly.

(*Ay*, bouncing!)

* * *

Host: I hear that your boyfriend is getting messages from another actress. How do you feel about this?

Female star: I think it' so cheap for a girl to text somebody else's boyfriend—but I'm not picking up a fight with her, *ha*?

(Funny, but that's exactly what you sounded like you were doing!)

* * *

Host: How does it feel, being at the top of your field after so many decades?

Guest: No, *naman*—

Host: Oh, you're just being too humble. It's true—you are an institute!

(*Ay*, institute!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Fill in the blank: **Nick Joaquin's** famous novel is entitled "The Woman Who Had ____ Navels." What is the missing number?

Contestant: 22!

("The Woman Who Had 22 Navels"?—far out! No, the right answer is only two!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What was the work of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ?

Contestant: Pastor!

(No, carpenter!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang M na simbahan ng mga* Muslim?

Contestant: Muslim!

(No, mosque!)

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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ANGELU DE LEON
PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GARCIA
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TUESDAY
Makati
CINEMANILA 2002
international film festival

CINEMA 1
11:00 HOTEL (UK/Italy)
by Mike Figgis
2:00 WATER DROPS ON BURNING ROCKS (France)
by Francois Ozon
5:00 NO MAN'S LAND (Bosnia/Belgium)
by Danis Tanovic
7:00 HANA-BI (Japan)
by Takeshi Kitano
9:00 I NOT STUPID (Singapore)
by Jack Neo
11:10 QUITTING (China)
by Zhang Yang

CINEMA 2
11:00 IN THE COUNTRY WHERE NOTHING HAPPENS (Mexico)
by Ideo Nakata
2:00 CENTRAL STATION (Brazil)
by Walter Salles
5:00 THE GIRL FROM PARIS (France)
by Benoit Mariage
7:00 KIKUJIRO (Japan)
by Takeshi Kitano
9:10 TAXI PARA TRES (Chile)
by Orlando Lubbert
11:00 RING 2 (Japan)
by Hiroshi Takahashi

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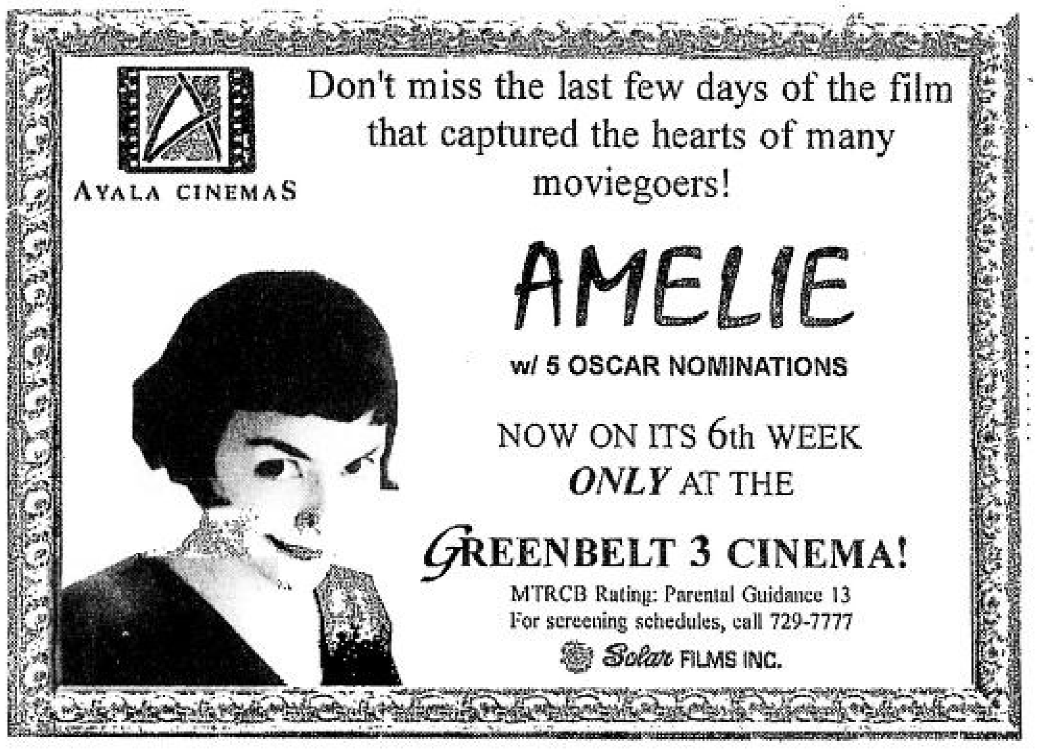
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ABOUT A BOY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SAGAD
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
ODEON-2	REPLICANT / HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	SAGAD
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	JIHAD WARRIOR / NOT ANOTHER THING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SAGAD
REMAR	SAGAD
REMAR-2	EIGHT LEGGED FREAK
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	D' URAGONS
B	SAGAD
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GALING GALING
CINEMA-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	MEGGIDO
CINEMA-7	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-8	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	D' URAGONS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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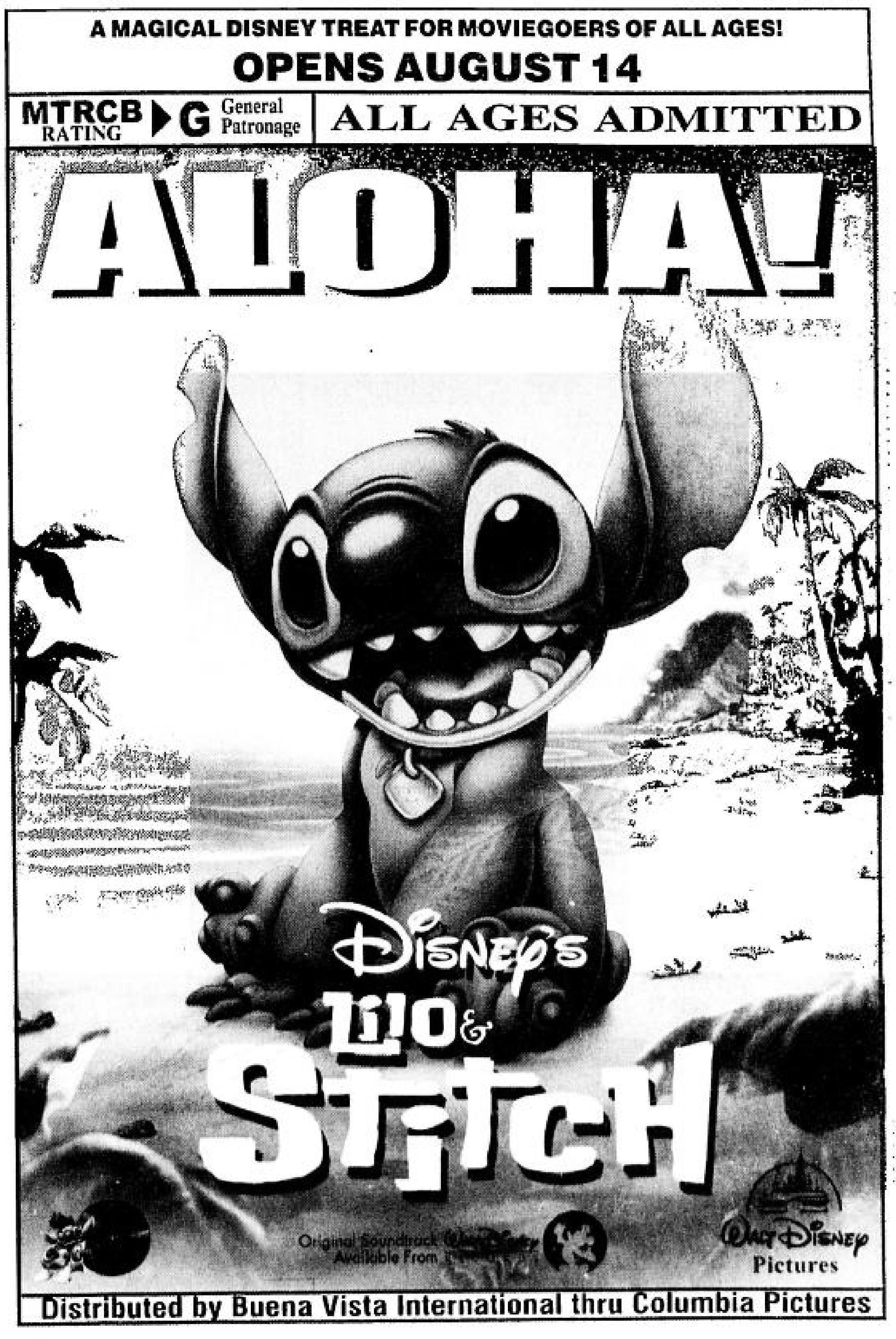
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'ABOUT A BOY'

What a good movie is all about

By **Ruben M. Cruz Jr.**

REVIEW

WITH the way I've been writing reviews lately, some people have been wondering whether I still enjoy going to the movies at all.

It's not that my standards are high, really. But watching movies and writing about them does get to be a bit tedious sometimes. The temptation to bash a movie that's been done before, far too many times before in fact, is just overwhelming even for a non-technical film person like I am. All I'm really looking for when I go to a cinema nowadays is to be surprised, to be bowled over by the experience of a film.

That isn't too much to ask, is it?

"About a Boy" does just that. The film is a smart, endearing and unconventional comedy that made me feel like it was Christmas on a hot, humid August afternoon. As I stepped outside the mall and walked towards home, nothing could wipe the smile off my face or stop me from singing—of all the songs—Roberta Flack's "Killing Me Softly." This is what going to a good movie is all about, I thought. Going crazy about it for a while.

At the center of the film's story is Will Freeman (Hugh Grant), a 38-year-old London bachelor living the ultimate un-Socratic life. For Will, the unexamined life is indeed worth living. Will has never worked a day in his life and has never had a relationship that lasted more than two months.

Thanks to the royalties from a cheesy hit Christmas song ("Santa's Supersleigh") written years ago by his late father, he can spend his days romancing women, watching TV, buying CDs, designer clothes and shiny new gadgets to fill his cool apartment, having his hair "properly tousled" at a stylish parlor, playing pool, surfing the 'Net for information on supermodels, and a host of other carefree things which normal working people don't have much time or money for.

Will admits his life is pointless and he's quite contented for it to be this way. When his married friends tell him he'll end up childless and alone, he responds with a beam, "Fingers crossed." He's the anti-thesis of John Donne's "no man is an island" because he thinks of himself as Ibiza.

Contrasting lives

Opposite Will's slacker lifestyle, we have the burdensome life of 12-year-old Marcus (Nicholas Hoult). Marcus has a troubled life at home mainly because of his perpetually depressed and sometimes suicidal mother, Fiona (Toni Collette), an aging hippie who goes back and forth from being overly protective to being clueless about her son.

Marcus is just as troubled in school, bullied and ostracized so much so that even his school's geeks don't want to hang out with him.

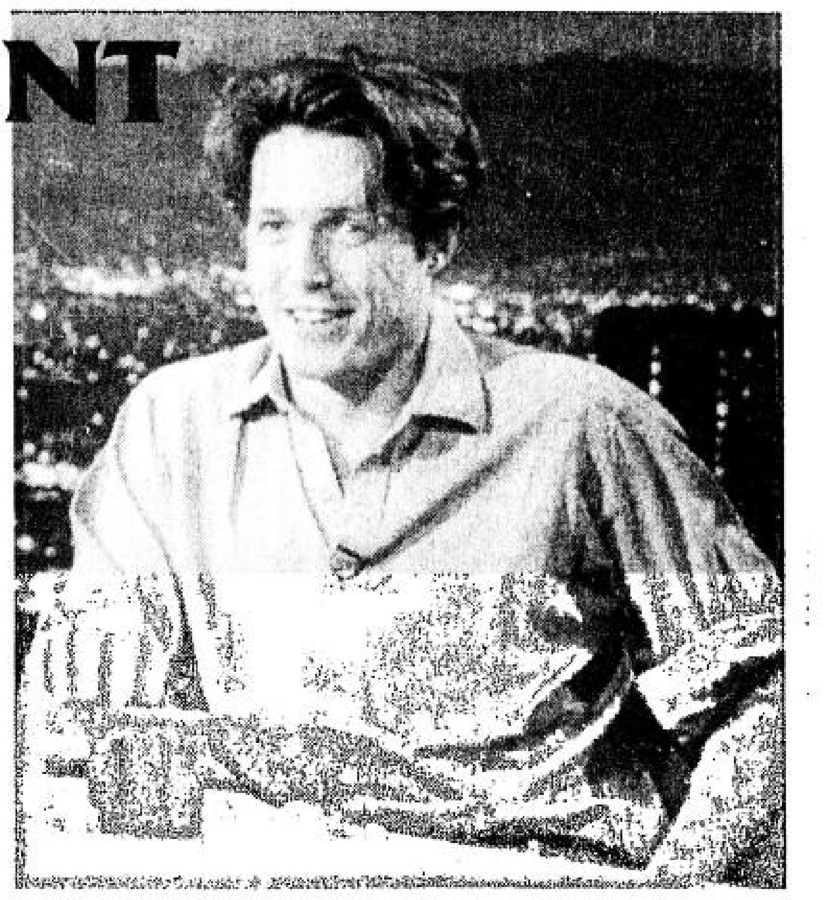
The two contrasting lives of Will and Marcus will of course meet and the perpetually adolescent adult and the adolescent with adult problems will be forever changed by the experience.

One could look at "About A Boy" as a simple coming of age story for Will and Marcus or that of the typical pseudo father-son relationship that rocks an irresponsible man out of his solipsism, but the film's screenplay is neither simple nor typical.

Lifelike

Will and Marcus don't just meet, start bonding, learn things from each other and live happily ever after. Will doesn't fall for Marcus's mom (Toni Collette) or vice versa. The way Will and Marcus, two outcasts of varying strains, find each other, interact and confront their own respective issues to find some measure of happiness is a refreshingly untidy, lifelike journey that we can eagerly go along with.

The film doesn't indulge in crass sentimentality or romantic gloss and there's an inner logic that drives its wandering plot. How the characters are drawn and developed is also credibly realistic, and investing our emotions in them comes but naturally.



GRANT. In one of his finest performances.

The dialogue is caustic and socially incisive. The voice-over narrations of Will and Marcus, in particular, are verbal buffets of humor, sensitivity and charm.

For all his faults, it's easy to root for the commitment-phobic Will as our fractured hero in the film. We've all known how it is to drift through life and feel both shame and contentment. In each of us there's a person that sees the futility of forging a purpose amidst life's chaos as well as a person that longs to be something more than he or she is, usually because of experiences that give us glimpses of how much better we can be.

Truthful

There's not just that one turning point for Will, not that one moment of salvation from the abyss of emptiness. Life is never that easy and "About A Boy," like I said, is truthful. But at the risk of being a spoiler, there is that magical scene when he realizes that skirting the question, "What do you do?" can no longer be easy, and that compartmentalizing his life into convenient 30-minute units would no longer do.

It's interesting how most societies consider what we do as a reflection of who we are. Every time Will struggles to answer the question, I squirm in my seat as well, thinking—no, more like feeling—how awkward my own replies are to the same question.

Even today, you see, not too many people think kindly of freelance writing as a living. A hobby, yes; but a living? Horrors!

The bond that develops between Will and Marcus is perfectly framed against the complex dynamics of human relationships, theirs with each other and with the other people in their lives. Marcus doesn't just become Will's surrogate son and it's even hard to explain when or how they reached a level of friendship.

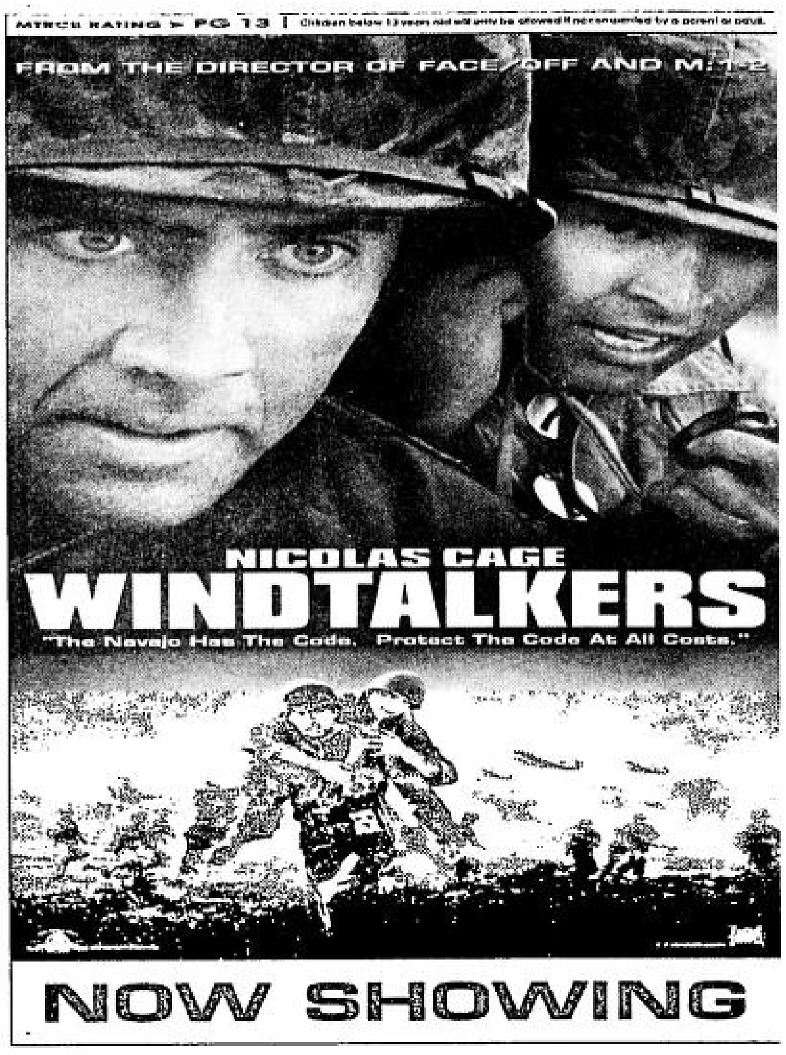
The one intelligently defining depiction of how they settled on mutual acceptance is a series of scenes that has them sitting on a couch to watch TV.

Enriched

Grant is his usually wonderful self and this is perhaps one of his finest performances, but it is Hoult who's quite the revelation. Hoult proves up to the task of delivering his punchy lines and his verve is intoxicating.

The film is enriched by the outstanding performances of its supporting actors. Collette and the gorgeous Rachel Weisz, playing the woman of Will's dreams, are irreplaceable. Even the actors playing the bit parts turn in more than just decorative work (thanks in large part to the witty script).

Yes, I still enjoy going to the movies. "About A Boy" is one of those films that restore your faith in filmmaking.



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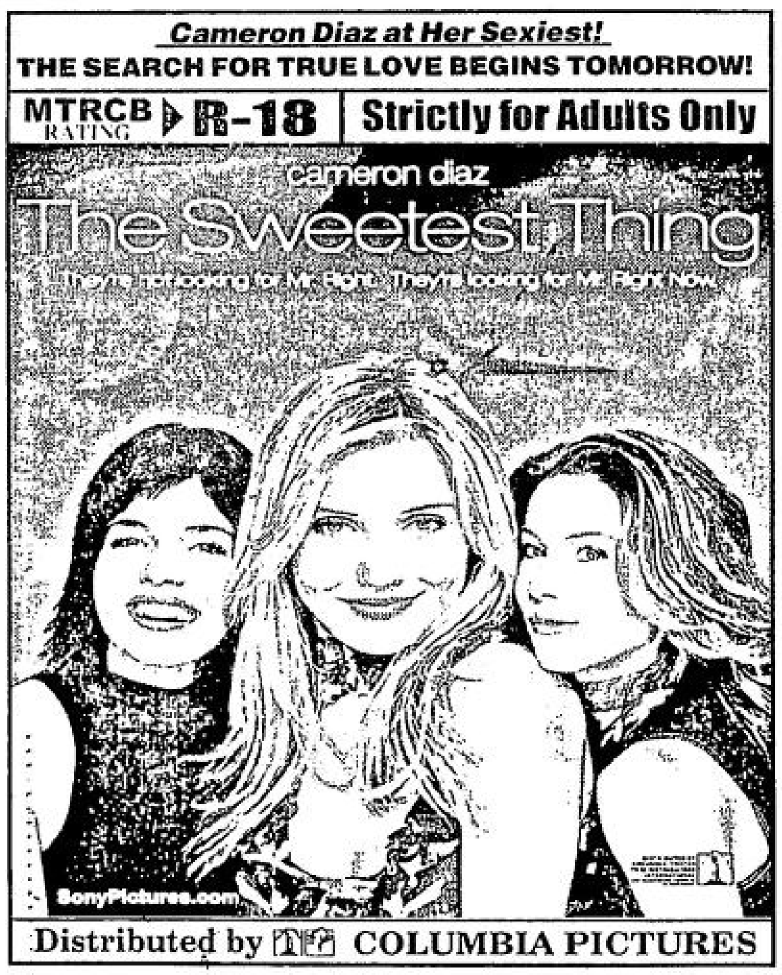

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CINEMA 2
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WINDTALKERS P13 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 1:20, 3:10, 5:10 ABOUT A BOY P13 6:50, 9:00	KILLING ME SOFTLY R 18 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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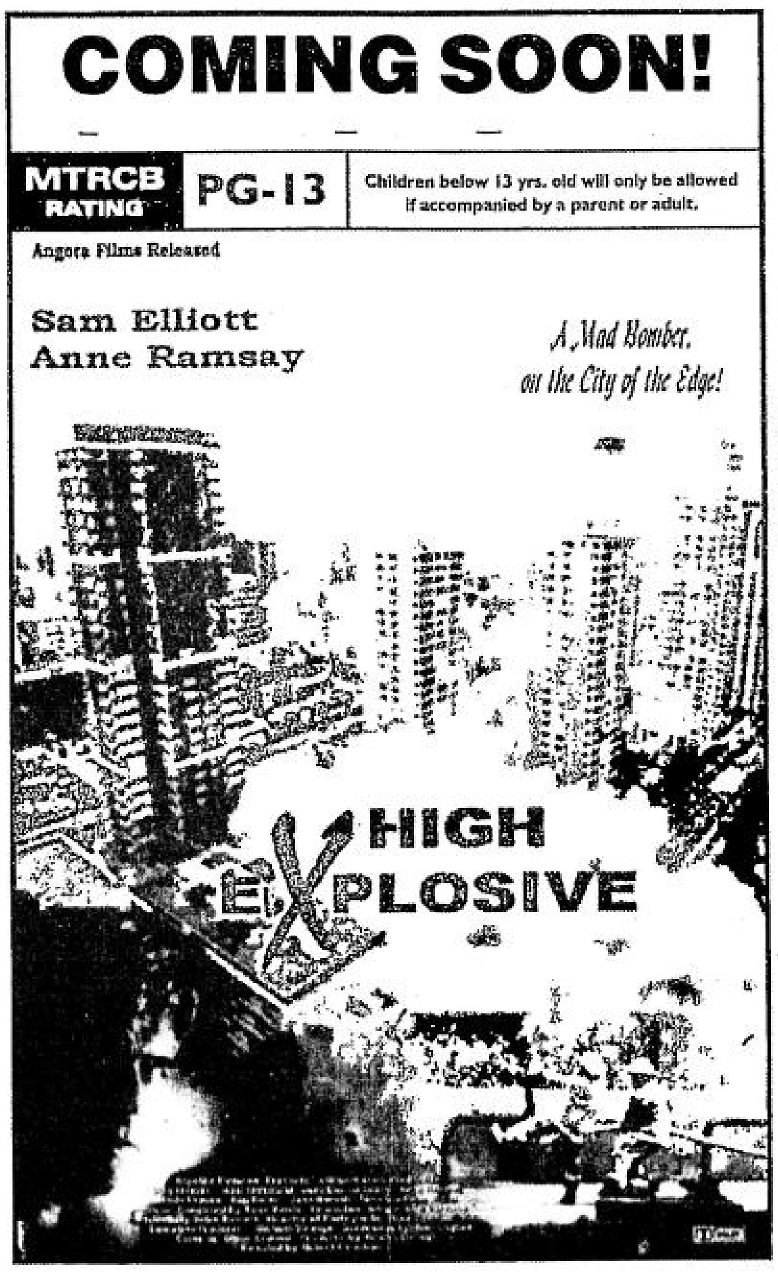

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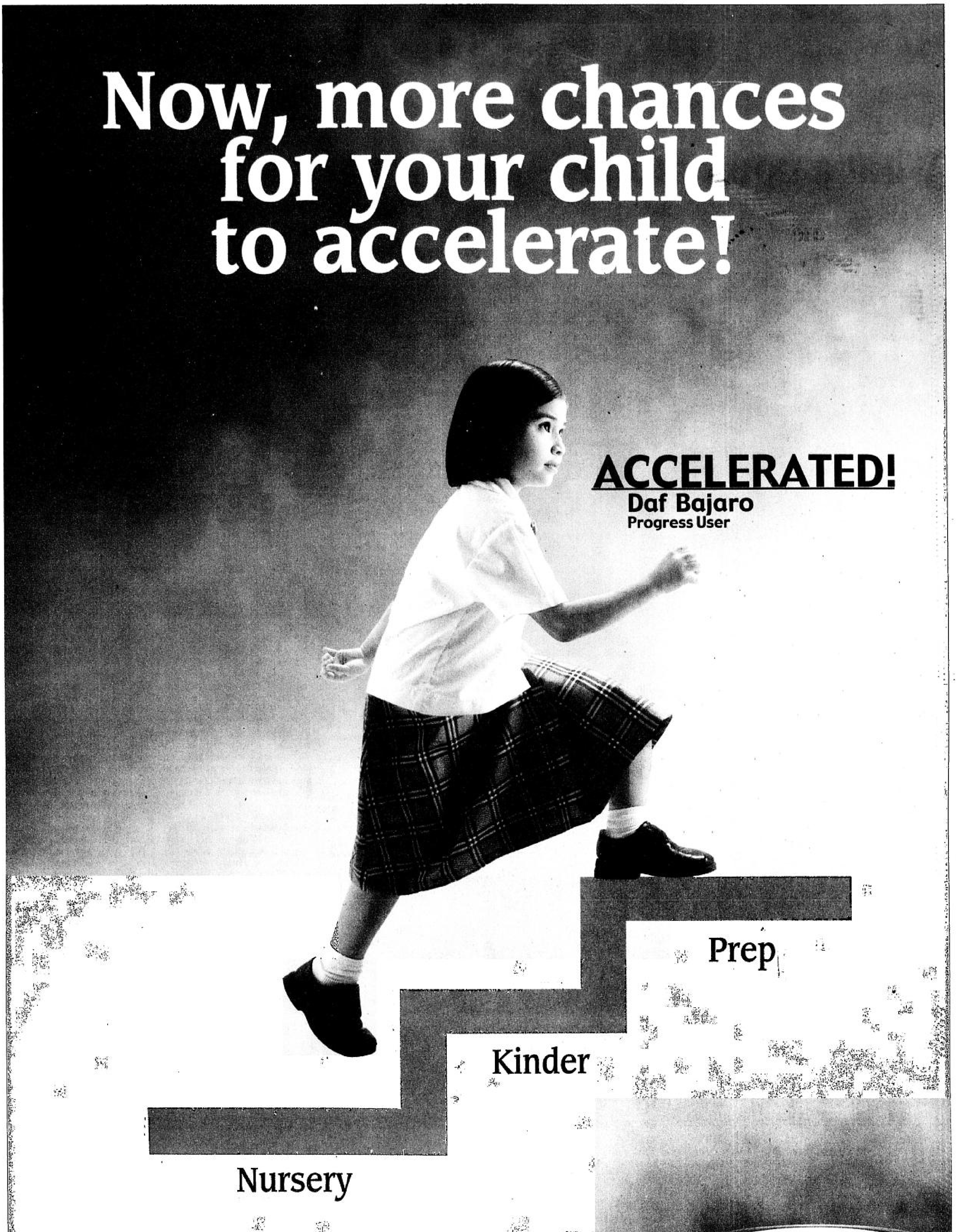
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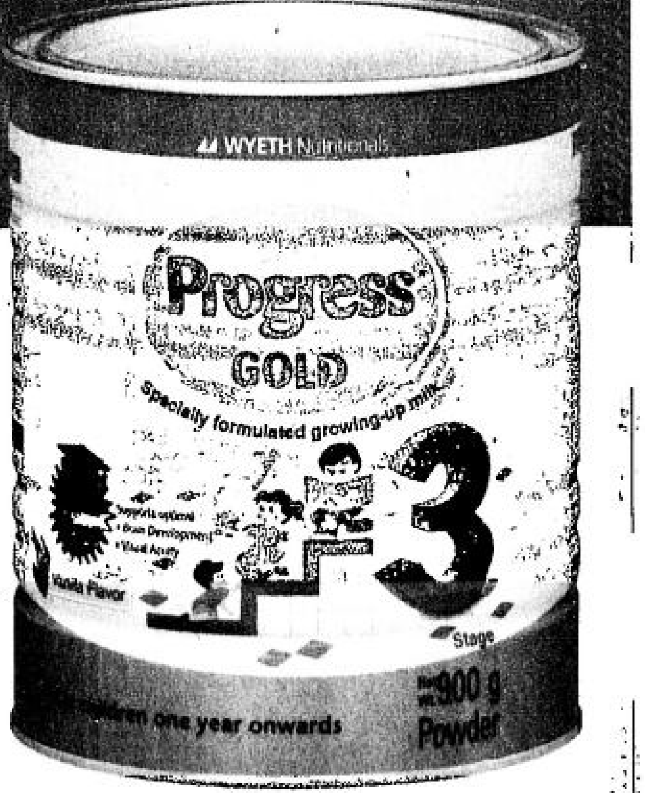
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BUSINESS

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Gov't scales down BIR, Customs targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has finally revised the targets of the bureaus of internal revenue and of customs for the year, taking into consideration what appeared to be an irreversible weakness in collection during the first quarter.

From a target of P447.556 billion, the BIR's goal was adjusted to a range of P413 billion to P422 billion while that of Customs was brought down by P15.526 billion to P99.6 billion from P115.126 billion.

But the revisions in the targets were only internal and would not be officially announced by the Development Budget and Coordinating Committee.

The revisions of the targets would mean a lower combined collection shortfall of P41 billion to P50 billion and would have to be offset by lower spending if the government wanted to meet its P130-billion budget deficit target.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had acknowledged the lower numbers but insisted that the targets of the BIR and the Customs would be maintained.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that starting July, the DBM would only release funds based on the collections of the government.

Despite the expected shortfall in collection, Camacho stressed that the government would maintain its deficit target at P130 billion this year as he anticipated contributions from other sources like savings from lower interest payments and dividends from state-owned companies.

The budget deficit, a significant measure of the government's economic performance, exceeded the first semester target of P78.26 billion by about 150 percent and its deficit of P77.82 billion a year ago by 53.84 percent to P119.7 billion.

The deficit trend, according to Boncodin, had continued in July although the gap had narrowed.

Boncodin said the government had about P83 billion in funds that it could choose not to release even as she admitted that cutting expenditures might adversely affect growth.

The technical working group of the DBCC had recommended a revision of the fiscal gap target to P158-P163 billion.

But Camacho had insisted that the P130-billion deficit target this year would be met on account of lower interest rates, which could give the government between P5 billion to P10 billion in savings during the second half.

Camacho said he was also counting on non-tax items to contribute another P5 billion to P10 billion to state coffers. Among these are dividend payments and guarantee fees.

Subic importers press gov't on used-vehicle import rules

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IMPORTERS of used, right-hand drive (RHD) vehicles in Subic Bay Freeport yesterday assailed the Department of Trade and Industry for blocking the release of their units into the local market despite the agency's failure to disprove the legality of their trade.

Motor Vehicle Importers Association (MVIA) president Eduardo A. Barretto said his group was planning to file a case against the DTI-Bureau of Import Services to force the agency to release the new guidelines on importing used, RHD vehicles which have delayed the delivery of some 5,000 units out of Subic's premises.

The Bureau of Customs had previously tightened the release of used vehicle imports from Subic due to complaints by the domestic automotive industry. But while the Subic importers obtained an injunction stopping the BOC from enforcing strict regulations, the BOC continued to hold on to their shipments by requiring them to get an import authority, which the DTI-BIS has refused to give pending the release of the new import guidelines.

Barretto said the DTI-BIS has unduly targeted small and medium-sized importers belonging to the MVIA, which only bring in between 50 and 200 units a month compared to the more than 1,000 units brought in by the auctioneers namely AIA, United Auctioneers, and On-Line Auctioneers.

"We have been suffering for a long time now and we feel that the issue should be resolved soon. We are legitimate importers and we serve the needs of our countrymen who could not afford brand new car models," Barretto said.

Barretto said his group welcomed the threat of the vehicle assemblers (Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.) and dealers (Philippine Automotive Association) to press charges against Subic importers to finally settle whether the used vehicle trade in Subic was legal.

Ayala unit ties up with German firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Ayala-controlled Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) has entered into a partnership with TQ-Systems GmbH of Germany as part of plans to make inroads into the European market.

IMI derives 63 percent of its revenues from the Japanese market and the remaining 37 percent from the combined US and European markets.

In a press briefing here at IMI's manufacturing plant at the Laguna Technopark, Jaime Zobel de Ayala II, chair of IMI and president of parent firm Ayala Corp., yesterday reaffirmed the group's commitment to the expansion of its electronics manufacturing subsidiary.

"We are always seeking to reinvent the company. Our interest is to move up the higher value chain because it's difficult to compete only on the labor side," Zobel de Ayala said.

Now employing close to 9,000 work force, he noted that IMI was now the fourth biggest revenue earner within the Ayala group and the only unit yielding dollar-denominated profits.

INDICATORS

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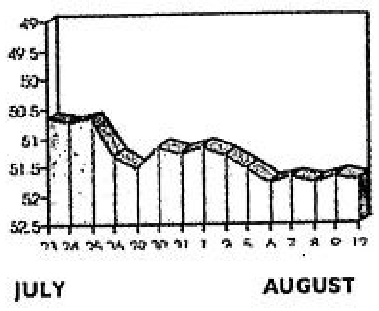

GRAPHS BY SAMMY RENOSO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2002

¥119.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2002

GOLD: $314.60/315.10
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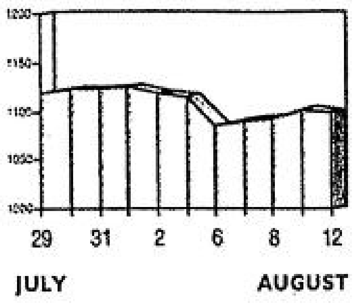
STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower

SHARES ended yesterday's session with a marginal loss on some selling in select blue chips following recent gains, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 3.79 points, or 0.3 percent, at 1098.58, after Friday's 0.8-percent rise. The index had risen 1.6 percent in the past three sessions.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Blue chip PLDT was among the most actively traded, down P5, or 1.8 percent, at P280 on foreign selling.

Limiting the market's decline was bargain hunting in select issues led by Jollibee Foods, up 2 percent at P12.75, ahead of today's release of what investors expect to be favorable second-quarter earnings from the fast-food operator.

KGI Securities trader Lawrence de Leon said the market is experiencing rotational blue chip buying with investors taking advantage of small price movements.

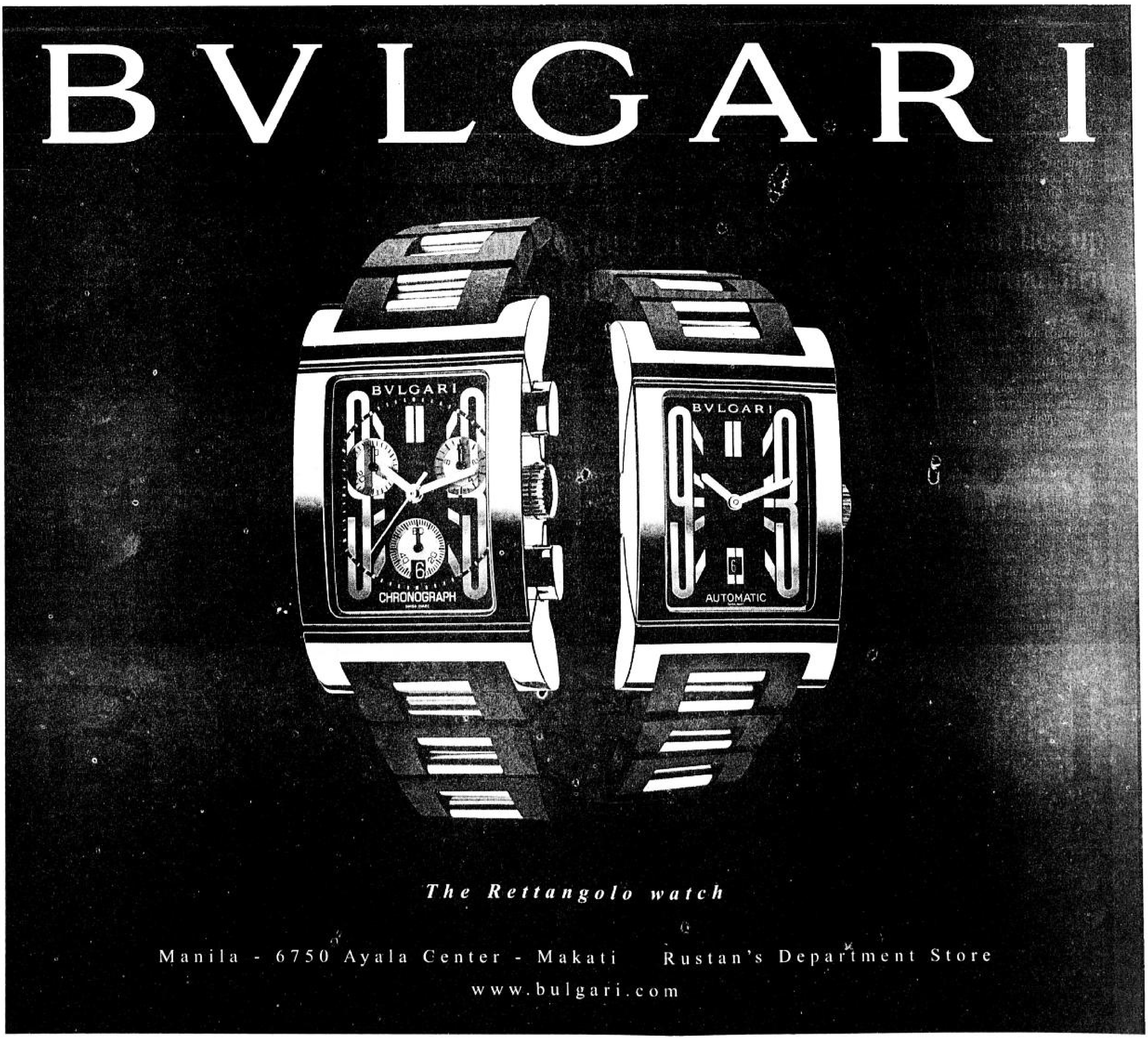
"There's a lack of buying incentive," he said. "Investors are waiting for results of the Fed meeting."

The Federal Open Market Committee is set to meet tomorrow to determine the direction of key US interest rates.

Investors are also awaiting the release of second-quarter Philippine economic data at the end of this month.

Trade volume fell to 197.5 million shares valued at P250.9 million from Friday's 73.82 million shares worth P269.7 million.

Decliners led gainers 20 to 11, while 36 issues were unchanged. AP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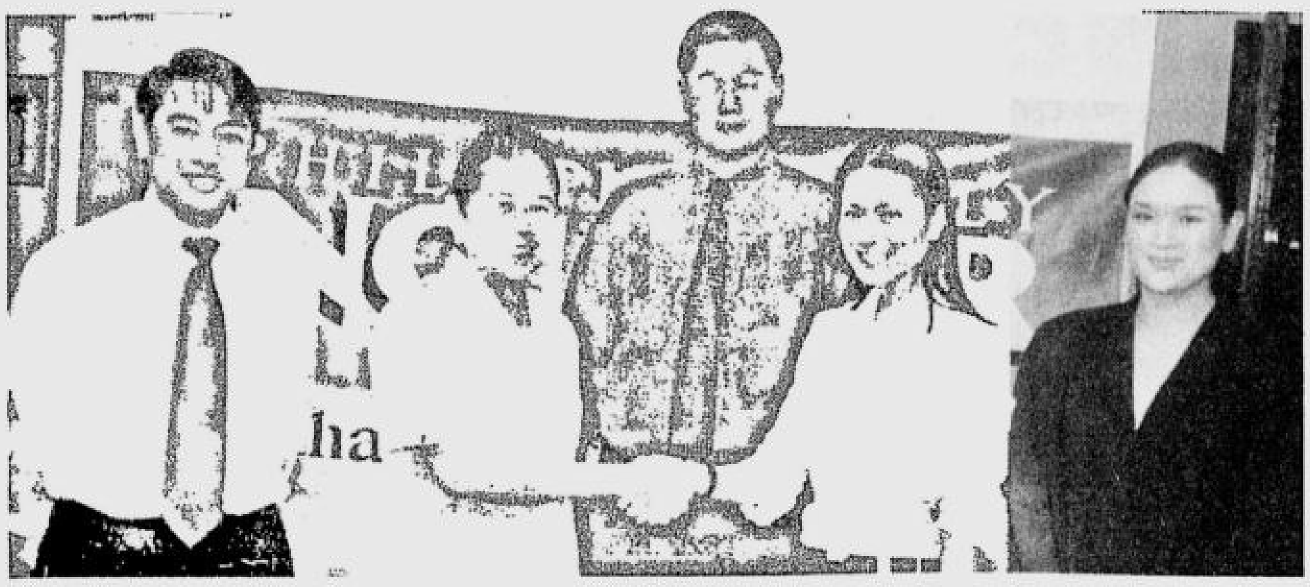

AS part of its mission to hone the next generation of Filipino entrepreneurs, Thames International Business School has launched the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students Awards 2002, the first recognition of its kind to students who epitomize the entrepreneurial spirit. Aspiring awardees will be chosen from 30 participating colleges and universities in Metro Manila and the top 40 student entrepreneurs will showcase their products and services during the Student Entrepreneurs' Fair, titled "Ano ba ang Racket Mo?" to be held at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall from Aug. 23 to 24. Formalizing the tie-up are INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Thames CEO Vivienne Tan. With them are Thames director Joel Santos, INQUIRER marketing manager Donald Lim and INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine Madamba.

Bad jet deficit

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S time now for us to name the MVP—the most valuable proposal. The winner is the bright proposal from Congress about the 2003 budget.

Under the proposal, some congressmen are egging this cute administration simply to increase the budget next year, whether or not it can raise the money.

That means this cute administration can exceed its target for the budget deficit. *No problemo!* As a solution, the proposal wants the administration just to raise the target.

Down here, when a man talks that way, wanting to spend like a drunken sailor, and he has the poor pay of a newsman, his wife throws him out of the house.

In the government, such a proposal merits a discussion in the Ledac, the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, which has no choice.

You see, the proposal comes from lawmakers who all belong to the pro-administration coalition in Congress, meaning, they get priority in the allocation of pork.

It is such a valuable piece of advice that, when they talked about it in Ledac, they were serious. They were not chuckling, not even a smile. They didn't think it was funny.

* * *

IN the meantime, the economic team of Gloriaetta must be going crazy over the budget deficit this year. Everybody is saying it's almost certain they will go over the ceiling.

Thus came about the great deficit debate. Since the government will certainly exceed the target, do they or do they not revise the deficit target?

Winning the debate, at this point, seems to be the side of keeping the deficit target as they set it, as early as back when this cute administration first came into power.

If the government exceeds it anyway, so be it. But by golly, let it not be said that, simply because the economic team cannot hit the target, they simply change it. Bravo!

It's just that, to me, if it's all right to exceed the target, as long as they do not change it, what is the use of setting the target in the first place? Very useful!

This is like telling your teenage son, as your main rule, he must not get any girl pregnant, but if he does, it's still all right, as long as the rule remains the rule. That useful!

* * *

WITH such a scenario, the MVP from lawmakers worms its way into the preparation for the 2003 budget. By the way, since it's a year prior to elections, it is an election budget.

So here we are. The economic team of this cute administration cannot solve the deficit problem, and our beloved lawmakers are saying, "Hey, just don't mind it."

They want this cute administration to raise the 2003 budget by P20 billion. This means the deficit will have to be increased by the same amount. It's still all right to them.

But the point is, precisely, the government is showing a bad fiscal record this year. Everybody only expects it to try harder and do better next time, which is 2003.

If, despite the bad showing this year, this cute administration still goes for the MVP, the 2003 budget will really look like an election budget to everybody.

And that is bad. If this cute administration is a jet plane, it wants to fly high into the clouds in order to crash. What's that—bad jet deficit?

* * *

BASED on word going around the electric power sector, in the state monopoly Napocor, it's good for executives to get fired. They are then hired back and even promoted.

Such is the famous case of the current corporate secretary of Napocor, a certain Alberto Pangcog, who used to be only legal counsel.

About five years ago, in September 1997, then Napocor president Guido Delgado fired Pangcog for . . . well, "incompetence."

Pangcog was counsel of Napocor. Delgado wrote him officially that the Napocor board found his performance "not at par."

In the golf course, "not at par" means that you are just like most golfers—rich but no talent whatsoever. To us down here, "not at par" simply means you suck.

Delgado cited four cases that showed Pangcog's efforts to sacrifice the interest of Napocor. Again, FOUR! Why Pangcog was not fired out the first time, I do not know.

* * *

ANYWAY, it seems that Pangcog sat on the papers of Alcatel, which was collecting from Napocor at that time. By the time he acted on the Alcatel collection, the peso had depreciated significantly. Thus, Napocor had to shoulder the forex loss.

At one time, Pangcog went to Batangas for a meeting with local officials on the construction of power barges. With the meeting scheduled for 11 a.m., he arrived at 4 p.m. and immediately proceeded to find nobody there.

It turned out he went to Batangas in the morning, but not to the meeting. He went to the property that he was planning to buy.

Delgado also noted in the memo that Pangcog seemed to enjoy a close relationship with Argentine firm Impsa, which at that time was bidding for the famous (i.e. controversial) CBK contract.

Delgado accused Pangcog of going out with Impsa executives. They went to a high-class karaoke bar at the Ortigas Center. In short, they had wine, women and song!

That was the night before the pre-bid conference for the CBK contract. As Delgado noted in the memo, that's not exactly an example of "prudence and responsibility."

* * *

NEVER mind that at a time when Napocor officials were getting a good grilling at the congressional hearings, Pangcog chose to go abroad.

To Delgado, he still had until the end of 1997 as counsel of Napocor. He was not fired right away. He was allowed to retire.

Surprise! Pangcog is now back with Napocor, taking up a higher position, at that, as corporate secretary.

And this is the guy who, according to word going around in the industry, brought two versions of the CBK contract to Malacañang for signing by the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

According to Transco president Asisclo Gonzaga, as he testified during a Senate hearing, one of the contracts was the version approved by Neda and the other was the version "approved" by Impsa for Pangcog to bring to Malacañang.

Word is, Pangcog is also approved by Impsa to follow up on collections (i.e. claims) of Impsa from the government. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is Napocor's corporate secretary.

No.1 Choose freedom.

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Source: IDC Asia/Pacific, PC Shipments Q1 2002

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, August 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	16	15.75	16	24,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	43	43	368,400
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	850
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	301,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36	35	35.5	411,700
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	200
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	16,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1250	1240	1240	2,230
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	945	935	945	4,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	3,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	480	480	480	480	13,200
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	285	280	280	104,120
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19	18.5	18.75	30,900
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	335,500
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	325,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	1,100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.22	2.22	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	209,000
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	16	16	16	16	6,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	32	31.5	32	1,400
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	48.5	48	48.5	185,000
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53.5	52.5	53.5	207,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.37	0.44	0.37	0.44	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.3	794,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.26	3,448,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.38	2.44	25,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	6,560,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	625,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.075	0.075	300,000
Ionics Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	236,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	270,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,320,000
Music Corporation	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	700,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	463,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	15,097,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.74	2,871,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	12,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.12	0.14	1,710,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	16,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	1,653,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	400,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	128,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	19,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,143,850	47,641,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	19,807,220	104,867,715.00
PRO	21,839,000	97,700,450.00
Mining	6,400,000	124,400.00
OIL	147,020,000	422,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	196,210,070	250,756,215.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	440.19	UP 0.32
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,513.52	DOWN 7.31
PRO	499.69	DOWN 1.17
Mining	1,134.65	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.37	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	644.04	UP 0.13
Composite	1,098.58	DOWN 3.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 11; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 67; NO. OF TRADES: 1,210

CURRENCIES

Aug. 12, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.030715	1.000000	51.8190
Japan	Yen	0.008584	0.008328	0.4315
United Kingdom	Pound	1.570604	1.523800	78.9618
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132145	0.128207	6.6436
Switzerland	Franc	0.685452	0.665026	34.4610
Canada	Dollar	0.654755	0.635243	32.9177
Singapore	Dollar	0.584537	0.567118	29.3875
Australia	Dollar	0.551775	0.535332	27.7404
Bahrain	Dinar	2.734138	2.652661	137.4582
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274851	0.266660	13.8181
Brunei	Dollar	0.580684	0.563380	29.1938
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000112	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024338	0.023613	1.2236
UAE	Dirham	0.280642	0.272279	14.1092
Korea	Won	0.000864	0.000838	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.970200	50.2748
Argentina	Real	0.283944	0.275482	14.2752
Brazil	Real	0.345877	0.335570	17.3889
Denmark	Kroner	0.134646	0.130634	6.7693
India	Rupee	0.021221	0.020589	1.0669
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.271277	0.263193	13.6384
Mexico	New Peso	0.105444	0.102302	5.3012
New Zealand	Dollar	0.471249	0.457206	23.6920
Norway	Kroner	0.133993	0.130000	6.7365
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017352	0.016835	0.8724
South Africa	Rand	0.098492	0.095557	4.9517
Sweden	Kroner	0.107693	0.104484	5.4143
Syria	Pound	0.020053	0.019455	1.0081
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030612	0.029700	1.5390
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000758	0.000735	0.0381

MWSS rejects Lopez creditors' demand

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has rejected the demand of the creditor banks of Maynilad Water Services Inc. to choose the operator that would take over the west concession area should Maynilad terminate its contract before the 25-year contract expires.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said in an interview that it was not possible to give in to the creditors' demand because the MWSS was the sole body empowered to evaluate and name the water services operator.

Cruz stressed that the creditor banks could only nominate who they think could replace Maynilad, but the MWSS would still have the final say.

The possibility of replacing Maynilad surfaced after its mother company Benpres Holdings Corp. earlier announced that it might sell part of its shares in the water company due to financial constraints.

"The MWSS, which is the remaining government overseer of water operations, would still be responsible for the evaluation of their (creditors) nominees . . . if they are capable to operate the water services for Manila's west zone," Cruz said in an interview.

Maynilad's creditor banks, which include Citibank N.A., BNP Paribas and Coface of France and Tokai Bank of Japan, wanted the power to appoint Maynilad's replacement in exchange for approving a new loan facility for Maynilad.

Maynilad, the water services subsidiary of the Lopez group, is negotiating for a new $350-million loan facility which it hopes to finalize by the end of November to finance its cash-trapped operations.

Chinabank posts ₱1.6-B income

By Elena R. Torrijos

CHINA Banking Corp., the country's 11th largest bank, yesterday reported a threefold increase in its earnings for the first half from P479 million to P1.6 billion.

Chinabank said in a statement that the stellar performance was due to improved operational productivity, careful allocation of funds and efficient cash management.

Net interest income rose 13.8 percent to P1.5 billion from the year-ago levels and fee-based income shot up to P2.3 billion, P1.43 billion higher than last year's.

At the same time, the bank's overhead expenses grew by only 16 percent, resulting in a significant improvement in the bank's cost-to-income ratio of 38.24 percent. This means that the bank was able to produce more income at less cost.

Chinabank disclosed that its improved income allowed the bank to accelerate loan loss provisioning by P650 million during the first half of the year, more than double the P295 million set aside for the same period last year.

Total loan loss reserves reached P3.7 billion for a non-performing loans coverage ratio of 61.7 percent, far higher than the industry average of 47.4 percent.

DISCLOSURES

CENTRAL Azucarera de Tarlac denied having any information that could explain the unusual movement in the trading of its securities.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. reminded holders of its outstanding 9.75-percent Senior Notes due 2012 issued on April 4, 2002 that the exchange offer will expire at 5 p.m., New York time on Aug. 16, 2002 unless the company extends it.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. bought 20,000 of its own shares at P0.45 per share.

* * *

BOGO-Medellin Milling Co. Inc. disclosed the resignation of Romeo Ledesma as director of the company effective immediately.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange indefinitely suspended trading of the shares of **Picop Resources Inc.** following the cessation of the company's corporate life as stated in the letter provided to the Exchange by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. announced the resignation of Ramon Abejuela as director of the company.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.** approved a program to buy back the shares of the company. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF AUG. 12, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,650,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	680,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	730,000	700,000
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"/"B"/"C"	Pls. call	Please call
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	320,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,600,000
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	160,000
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		260,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,000,000	

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	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*		95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY		300,000
CANLUBANG	-	500,000
CAPITOL HILLS	107,500	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO		200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**		85,000/150,000*/200,000**
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000**	230,000/260,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	260,000/280,000*	270,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,750,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	650,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./C***	95,000/275,000**	110,000/300,000**
MT MALARAYAT A/C*		350,000/425,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/C**	170,000/300,000**	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB		380,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**		50,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**		100,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*		1.8M
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	-	200,000/300,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CO/GOLF*	600,000*	400,000/850,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	

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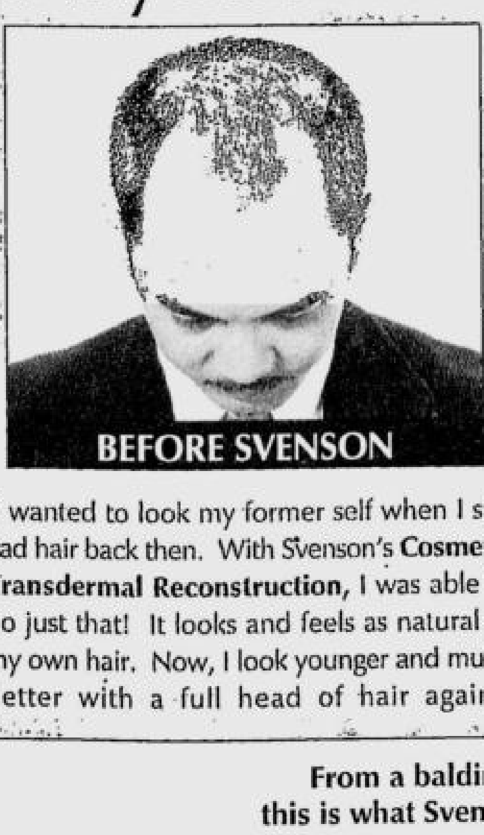

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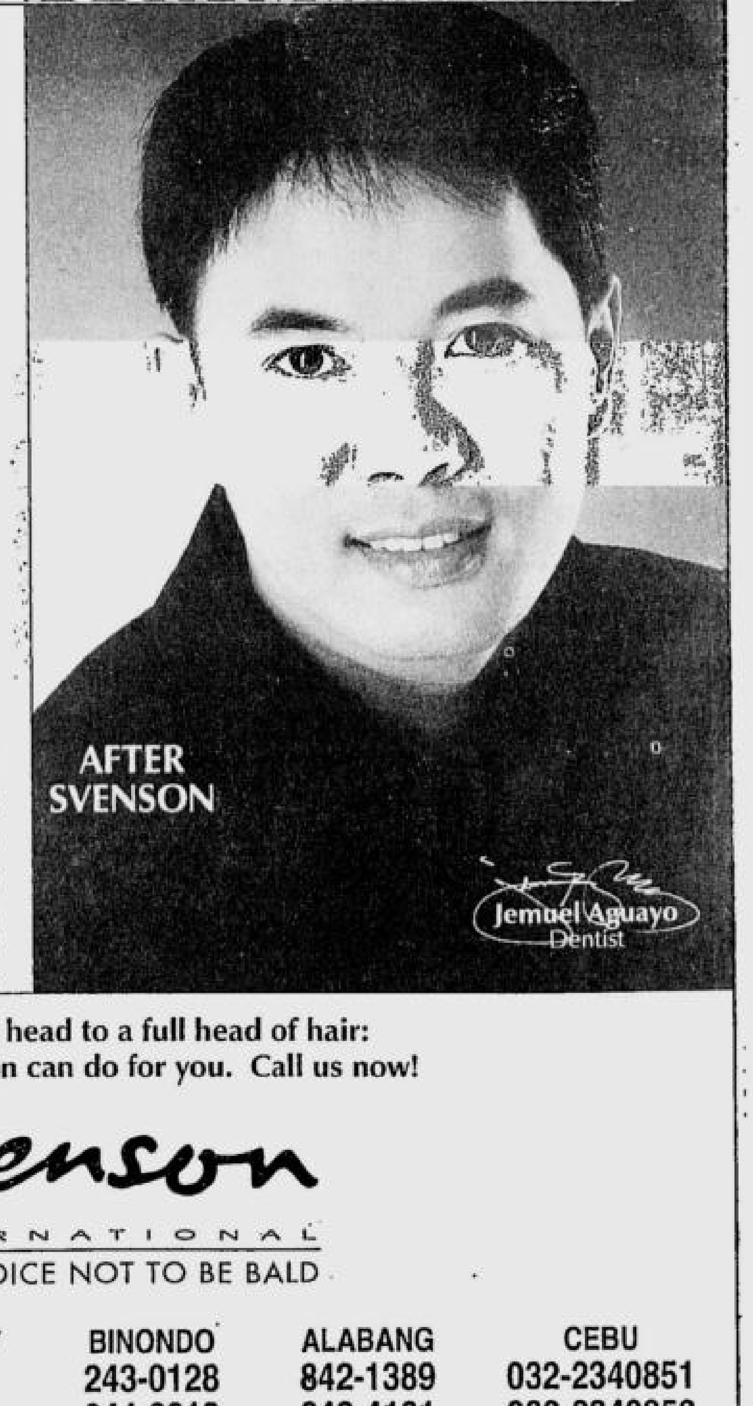

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BPI posts P2.7 billion in first half

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) reported strong first semester earnings of P2.7 billion in net income, considered the strongest first half earnings in the banking industry this year, and a 10.8-percent return on equity. The Bank attributed the strong earnings to robust results in traditional commissions, asset management and trust fees, corporate finance and underwriting fees and gains from the sale of acquired real properties.

During the same period, net interest income, however, declined by 15 percent caused by a lower interest rate environment compared to last year. In 2001, the Bank netted P5.2 billion. Total resources stood just slightly ahead of the end 2001 level. Deposits remained basically at the same level while loans contracted by about 5 percent due to reduced corporate demand. However, consumer loans registered record growth in new loan releases and added another P3.7 billion when ABN Amro's loans were acquired in June. Capital stood at P51 billion and was at 13 percent of total banking assets.

NPLs (over 90 days) improved to 12.6 percent due to combined effect of loan collections, foreclosures of underlying collaterals, and write-offs. BPI wrote off P1.2 billion in loans. Loan loss reserves came down to P14 billion or 7.3 percent of total loans as result of these loan write-offs, but the loss reserve cover of NPLs remained at a high 58 percent.

1ST BUILD-TO-OWN PROJECT

G&W Architects Engineers Project Development Consultants, with the participation of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) and International Exchange Bank (iBank), formally held the groundbreaking ceremony of Penhurst Parkplace at Bonifacio Global City July 18. Penhurst Parkplace is a high-rise residential building in Bonifacio Global City, a development under the Build Direct to Own scheme wherein interested individuals or groups hire the services of technical professionals to build condominium units at direct cost. This scheme eliminates the middleman and the added costs for overhead and profits, and provides Class A housing at prices 45-percent cheaper than current market prices. Top officials of G&W, FBDC, iBank, and well-known firms in the construction industry took part. Shown, from left, are Vicente Tinsay III, EVP for commercial operations, FBDC, architect Gilbert C. Yu, president, G&W, Manuel Sy, president, New Golden City Builders, architect Lora Rivera, VP, United Architects of the Philippines, Antonio C. Moncupa Jr., EVP and head, treasury, iBank, Hi Kian Yu, managing director, Fuji-haya Electric Corp. of the Philippines, Wilson Go, president, Alcophil, Paul B. Chaston, partner and regional development manager-North East Asia, EC Harris Philippines, Josemari C. Cuervo, president and COO, Cuervo Far East, and architect Willie C. Yu, EVP, G&W.

Full-packed August at the Julius Maggi Kitchen

THE JULIUS Maggi Kitchen continues to sizzle this August with cooking demonstrations and lifestyle sessions that will help you enhance your cooking and lifestyle skills.

If you get panic attacks when friends and family surprise you with a visit, then JMK's classes on Aug. 21 and 31 are perfect for you. Entertainment personality and cooking show host Jon Santos will help you manage those unexpected visits. Jon will identify utensils that every kitchen should have. He will also give sound advice on what basic ingredients should be found in your pantry to be able to whip up dishes for pleasant visits from friends and loved ones.

The renowned host will likewise prepare quick-fix recipes that will make the visits memorable and fun.

Food expert Dorothy Ferreria will also share her expertise in reinventing and expanding your chicken recipes. Ferreria will demonstrate creative ways to make your chicken more appealing and mouthwatering for special parties and even simple family gatherings.

The heat in the kitchen and the family demands of life can be unfriendly to your skin. Hence, JMK invited skin care specialists from Galderma to share skin care basics.

Have insightful afternoons with Ferreria and the team from Galderma on Aug. 13, 15, 17, 20 and 22. For reservations, call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

Baking guru Heny Sison earlier conducted special classes at the kitchen for baking enthusiasts. Sison demonstrated how to make basic cakes and icings Aug. 3, and making brownies and bars Aug. 4.

Learn from experts Jon, Dorothy and the skin care team from Galderama. For reservations, call 726-5316.

All sessions will be conducted at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Classes start at 2 p.m.

Educhild holds Asia Pacific family congress

THE EDUCATION for Upbringing of Children (Educhild) Foundation Inc. presents Asia Pacific Family Congress 2002, a two-day forum on the responsibilities of building, nourishing and enhancing family and family life, with this year's congress theme "My Family ... Who's Responsible?"

After the success of the first Asia Pacific Family Congress which was started in Manila in 1999 and the subsequent run last year in Singapore, the Asia Pacific Family Congress slated on Aug. 16 and 17 will look into the various challenges and the responses of today's family in present-day society. It will present the joys and travails of fatherhood and motherhood in a showcase of notable experiences in educating children in freedom and human virtues and nurturing family life. Featured are keynote addresses, conversations and interactions on family building, uplifting, strengthening and solidifying the family and its contribution to social development.

Educhild is a collaboration of parents whose main objective is to provide opportunities for child-rearing formation, training and continuing education to parents and is a founding member of the Switzerland-based Fondation Internacionale de la Famille (IDF), a worldwide effort promoting family enrichment. Educhild has counterparts in Europe, Latin America, the United States, Australia and other Asian countries.

Be responsible. Be a key player in the Renaissance of the family. Join the Asia Pacific Family Congress 2002 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For inquiries and reservations call 0917-5270691, 890-6707, 890-6630 and 925-0714 or e-mail educhild_congress@yahoo.com.

CERTIFIE
Miss Teen CANDIDATE
MISS TEEN PHIL

MISS TEEN CANDIDATES VISIT RAINFOREST

Candidates of Miss Teen Philippines visited the plant of Archipelago Waters Products International Inc., bottlers of Rainforest Natural Mineral Water. Brand manager Aaron Cano toured the girls in the fully automated, state-of-the-art bottling plant. This made the visitors appreciate fully the dedication of Rainforest in ensuring the highest degree of product quality and safety.

FEDEX BACKS FINAL LEG OF AF3

FedEx recently signed an agreement with Colby Ventures Inc., Philippine promoters of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge, to sponsor the final leg of the series, which will be held at the Subic International Raceway in Subic Bay Freeport from Oct. 23 to 27. The 2002 Asian Formula Challenge is a 7-leg, 14-race series organized by the Asian Formula 3 Corp (AF3) in cooperation with China-based Formula Racing Development (FRD) and the Malaysian Motor Sports Club (MMSC). The final leg of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge is also sponsored by New Pagcor Casino Filipino, the Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, Subic Bay Management Authority, Red Horse Beer, San Miguel, Swatch, Petron, and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. At the contract signing are (from left) Paul Aquino, Colby Ventures Inc. vice president, Samuel S. David, FedEx Philippines country manager, and Tom Pastor, Colby Ventures president.

2002 NATIONAL
CONSUMERS QUALITY

MAX'S REAPS OPERATIONS AWARD

Max's Group of Companies was given a National Consumers Quality Award for being having the most outstanding restaurant operations by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation. This was in recognition of exemplary performance and product excellence, corporate quality, service and price affordability based on opinion surveys. The award was given during the 2002 Joint Annual Presentation of the National Consumers Quality Awards and Handog kay Itay Father's Day Celebration of NCAF and the Lead a Life Foundation. Carlo Fajardo, Max's Restaurant marketing manager, received the trophy and plaque of appreciation. With him were Celia Umali, awards chair, Ambassador Barry Gusi, and Lourdes Pimentel.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
Tuguegarao City

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The Provincial Government of Cagayan with office address at Capitol, Alimannao Hills, Tuguegarao City, is interested in purchasing, through public bidding, the following Engineering Equipment:

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2) 01 unit reconditioned Prime Mover/Tractor Head (Isuzu), with double differential floating cab, from 380-390 HP and 2,500 RPM
3) 01 unit reconditioned Truck Mounted Crane with 2 engines
   a. Truck Side-Japan engine, (Hino, Fuso, Nissan) double differential, floating cab, 295-330 HP and 2800 RPM
   b. Crane Side-Japan engine, mechanical lattice boom, 120-130 HP, 80 ft. 35 tons
4) 01 unit reconditioned Low Bed, front loading, 35-40 tons
5) 01 unit reconditioned Diesel Pile Hammer, Delmag D25-32, 2,500 kgs., 78,970-39,975 Newton Meter
6) 02 units reconditioned generator set
   a. 30 KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted
   [illegible] KVA, diesel-fed, with 1 set panel board and complete with complete operational gauges, 3 phase, 60 cycle, 220/110 output and skid mounted.
[illegible] units reconditioned dump truck - 10 wheeler ISUZU 10 PCI with double differential, floating 295-330 hp 2,800 rpm
8) 01 unit reconditioned dump truck 6 wheeler, power steering FUSO, 6d15, 200 HP, 2800 RPM

For more information, interested parties may contact Engr. Gaspar Taquiqui at Provincial Equipment Pool Office, Capitol, Tuguegarao City or call Telephone No. (078) 844-1266.

Interested bidders must be pre-qualified. Deadline for pre-qualification is August 18, 2002.

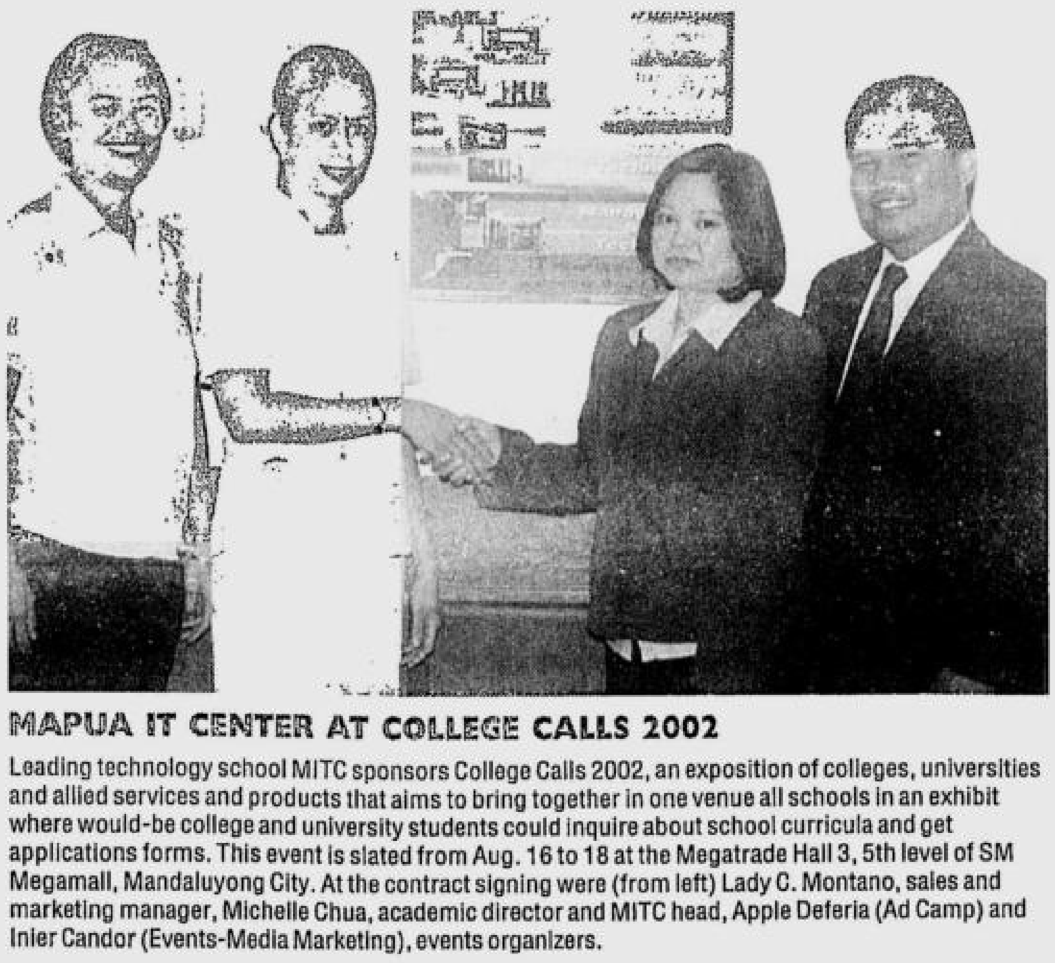
Specifications and bid forms may be secured from the General Services Office, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao [illegible] from August 19-23, 2002, upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of seven thousand [illegible]).

[illegible] conference will be held on August 27, 2002. Sealed bid proposals must be submitted to the [illegible] and Awards Committee not later than 9:30 a.m. on September 03, 2002.

The Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, waive any defects or formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Provincial Government

(Sgd.) EDGAR RAMONES LARA
Governor
Chairman, Provincial Committee on Bids & Awards

[illegible] Aug. 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

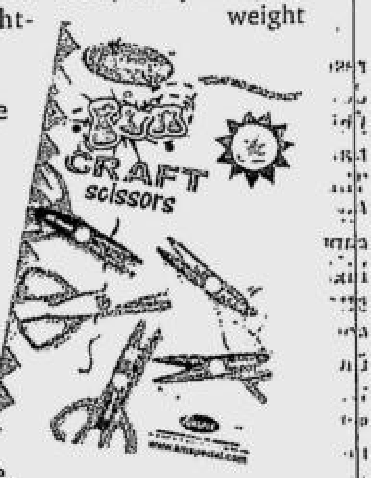


MAPUA IT CENTER AT COLLEGE CALLS 2002

Leading technology school MITC sponsors College Calls 2002, an exposition of colleges, universities and allied services and products that aims to bring together in one venue all schools in an exhibit where would-be college and university students could inquire about school curricula and get applications forms. This event is slated from Aug. 16 to 18 at the Megatrade Hall 3, 5th level of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. At the contract signing were (from left) Lady C. Montano, sales and marketing manager, Michelle Chua, academic director and MITC head, Apple Deferia (Ad Camp) and Inier Candor (Events-Media Marketing), events organizers.

Product FILES

Li'l Hands Fun Craft Scissors



Li'l Hands Fun Craft Scissors comes in 12 fun designs and in different and exciting colors—an addition to its wide range of arts and crafts products. Fun Craft Scissors suits both right and left-handed users, easily cuts paper and lightweight cloth. Art and craft projects are more exciting and fun with Li'l Hands! It's available in leading bookstores nationwide.

LUXURY MARKET

How a property giant flexes its muscles

By Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IT refuses to become a slumbering giant, not in these times. Ayala Land Inc. says the market pie for the real estate industry has shrunk with more competitors jostling to get a bigger slice of the market. The same holds true for the luxury segment. With its sales force achieving an impressive P1 billion in less than four months—way ahead of its total sales forecast of P1.6 billion for the whole of 2002—it still refuses to relax. People say that when you have the muscles, you have to keep on working out to keep them.

And so, ALI just headed for the "property gym," so to speak. It has just deployed what it described as highly motivated and assertive men and women. Some were fresh graduates while others came from top companies. Most of them were good-looking enough to join show business or even replace TV news anchorpersons because of their fluency of the language and knowledge of current events.

Beefing up the sales force

The hiring of the sales force, called ALI Property Specialists, was conceptualized during the latter part of 2001. It started with three groups composed of 12 property specialists each. Today, it has grown to five groups comprising 60 property specialists.

"Tap the yet untapped market" in the real estate industry is how ALI puts the groups' primary objective. The way to achieve it is to sell what are at the forefront of ALI's luxury segment. One Roxas Triangle, for example, has luxury condominiums pegged at P25 million to 40 million. One Legaspi Park's high-end condos go for P3.85 million to 14 million. Ayala Greenfield Estates lots are priced at P7,850 to P10,500 per sq. m. Ayala Westgrove Heights lots, on the other hand, cost P8,500 to P11,000 per sq. m. Montgomery Place townhouses are placed at P6 million to P12 million and Ferndale's single detached houses and lots cost from P6 million to P12 million.

"The market pie has shrunk and the competitors have been pushing at each other to be in this market," says Marivic Añonuevo, vice president for sales and marketing. Añonuevo was recently tapped to be the president of ALI Property Specialists.

> The market pie has shrunk and the competitors have been pushing at each other to be in this market

"I will admit that it's a fierce competition, aside from the fact that (real estate) is not in the best of times," says Añonuevo. "With competitors growing, we cannot afford to be laid back. We have to go now and reach out," she adds.

Image modification

ALI used to be known as a conservative real property firm. Now, it is modifying its image by drinking the "elixir of youth," getting younger faces with the friendly yet assertive attitudes to go along with them. ALI considers assertive property specialists are what it needs to sell its luxury segment. It did not prefer property specialists with real estate backgrounds, but the firm trained them extensively.

Furthermore, 85 percent of those who recently bought property from ALI property specialists are first-time buyers of the Ayala Land projects while only 15 percent are former Ayala customers.

The trend nowadays, Añonuevo observes, is that even the moneyed seek installments. They want affordable payment terms and low down payments.

The name of the game today, even in high-end luxury segment, she adds, is affordable payment terms without compromising quality. Targeting the AB market segments, ALI property specialists are using high-impact selling methods. The team will establish an Ayala south office to cover Calabarzon. Other similar satellite offices will rise in promising regions in the country.

The more promising property specialists who mingled with the press on Aug. 7 included Anna Maria Ortega, one of the youngest, at 21, and the most attractive among the batch; Agnes Lacorte, a licensed civil engineer who shifted from building properties to selling; and Jeson Siy Kiokan.

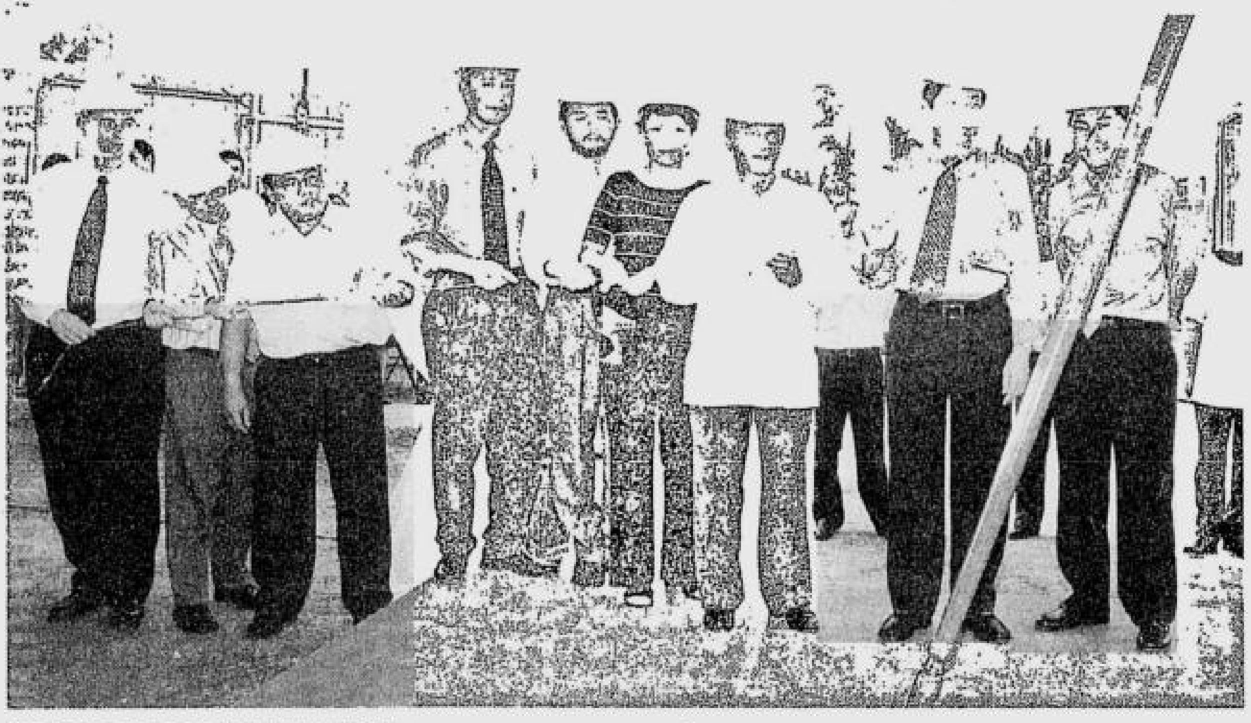
So, will we see beautiful, scantily clad models posing in front of ALI's "for-the-rich-only" property in print and TV ads? Not likely. ALI property specialists must have a positive outlook and must be physically fit to complement the company's products.

Public perception

A survey on the public perception of leading property firms in the Philippines was conducted recently by German consultancy firm Icon Brand Navigation.

The study sought to find out how property firms such as Rockwell, Megaworld Properties, ALI, Villar companies and Filinvest fared in terms of awareness, loyalty, quality and brand image. The 250 respondents of the survey were composed of 75 from the A class, 75 from the B class and 100 from the C class—all from Metro Manila.

ALI led the survey in all aspects. It, however, refused to disclose further details on the survey.


START OF CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the 41-story Manansala residential tower at the Rockwell Center is now in full swing with the recent lowering of its time capsule. Leading the ceremony are Lopez Group of Companies chair Oscar M. Lopez, third from right; Rockwell Land Corp. chair Manolo M. Lopez, second from right; and president Tong Padilla, far right. Joining them are project consultants representatives. The Manansala is expected to be finished by 2005.

New tollway exit promises faster travel to south

THERE is hope for commuters and motorists who know only too well the traffic congestion at the Sta. Rosa exit of the South Luzon Expressway (Slex) during rush hour.

The Department of Public Works and Highways and Philippine National Construction Corp., through Asia Brewery and Greenfield Development Corp., have begun construction on the Malitlit Interchange.

The additional tollway exit will be linked to the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road beside the National Panasonic plant. It is expected to ease the Sta. Rosa exit traffic by affording another option for vehicles going to and from that stretch of Slex.

Ayala Westgrove Heights residents, who will be directly benefited by the construction, welcomed the development. "It will be good for the progress of the industrial estates as well as residential communities in this part of Sta. Rosa," said Ayala Westgrove Heights Homeowners Association president Roberto A. Chan.

Malitlit Interchange is scheduled to open in February next year.

Developers express strong interest in Bonifacio Global City's I-Village

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the Bonifacio Global City, is receiving strong interest from a variety of mixed-use developers for its newest community, I-Village.

A prime development area, I-Village is surrounded by the country's most prestigious international schools like the British School Manila, Manila Japanese School and the soon-to-open International School of Manila. Situated in the northern portion of the Bonifacio Global City, I-Village is a 5-hectare community subdivided into 33 buildable lots ranging from 662 sq. m. to 1,527 sq. m. with floor area ratio (FARs) set between 6 and 7. With direct access through Kalayaan and C-5 to Makati and greater Metro Manila, I-Village lots are positioned to accommodate a variety of development schemes.

Rare opportunity

"I-Village is a rare opportunity for residential, retail and entertainment developers keen to capture the Philippines' most desirable residential demographic," said Vicente C. Tinsay III, FBDC senior vice president for commercial operations. "With a captive market of several thousand high-income families whose children attend these international schools, coupled with a growing desire by these families to reside in secure, well-planned areas near these schools, we believe I-Village developments will be among the Philippines' premier addresses."

I-VILLAGE is near the country's most prestigious schools like the Manila Japanese School.

While I-Village has yet to be formally launched, FBDC has received a significant number of inquiries from developers who recognize the area's potential.

"Being part of the Bonifacio Global City, I-Village will possess the same exceptional city infrastructure as other Global City developments," added Tinsay. "The most superior road construction, the Philippines' only dual pipe water transmission system, reliable power transmission and full fiber-optic wiring for rapid communication are among the significant benefits any developer desires."

Total city management

I-Village developments will also benefit from the most sophisticated city service management team in the Philippines, through the Bonifacio Estate Services Corp. BESC is the only city management in the Philippines incorporating a European and American system of "total city management," wherein all city services are operated under a single authority. This system reduces unnecessary red tape, development delays and infrastructure problems—unfortunate hallmarks of many developments across the country.

"In today's market, developers want to know that any investment they pour into a project has a more than just a likely chance of producing returns. I-Village represents one of the few opportunities in today's challenging market to capture an immediate and captive market, and we are confident that its future as a prime neighborhood in the Bonifacio Global City is secure," concluded Tinsay.

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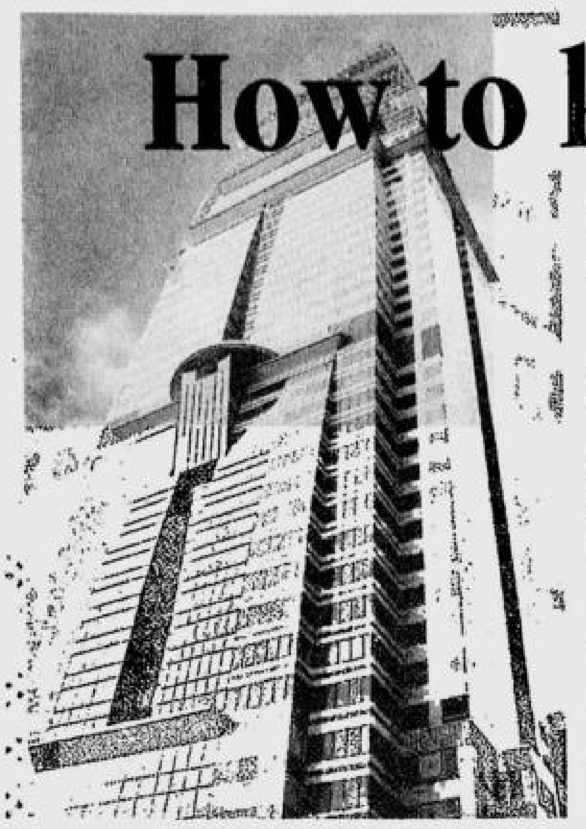
How to know if a building is 'intelligent'



THE 53-STORY Capital Tower Building

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CONCEPT of putting up so-called "intelligent" buildings has caught on as much in Southeast Asia as in other parts of the world, and determined to set a standard in this part of the world is the 53-story Capital Tower building in Singapore.

The Capital Tower in Singapore's financial district is the Singapore headquarters of multinational companies such as the state-run GIC, Cisco, Maybank and Mizuho Bank that were attracted to the building because of its "intelligent" features.

'Intelligent' features

These include an automated car park guidance system which informs drivers of available parking slots before directing them to these lots, a wireless local area network that allows tenants to access the Internet and check e-mails anytime, anywhere and touch screen interactive information kiosks for visitors.

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Citibank offers loan for much-needed home improvement

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We also carry remote-controlled Garage Door

A NEW consumer loan product is now easily and readily available from the country's largest foreign bank to help you turn your house into more of the home you want it to be for your family.

Citibank Installment Loan is a breakthrough product that aims to help individuals finance planned and unplanned expenses less the slow and cumbersome loan application process.

It requires no collateral, co-maker or initial deposit, and can be available in as early as seven days from the time the loan application is submitted to Citibank. What's more, an applicant does not even have to leave his home or office to avail of the loan. Applications can be made over the phone at the Citibank Loan-On-Phone Hotline, 423-3333, and documents can be picked up anywhere by a Citibank messenger.

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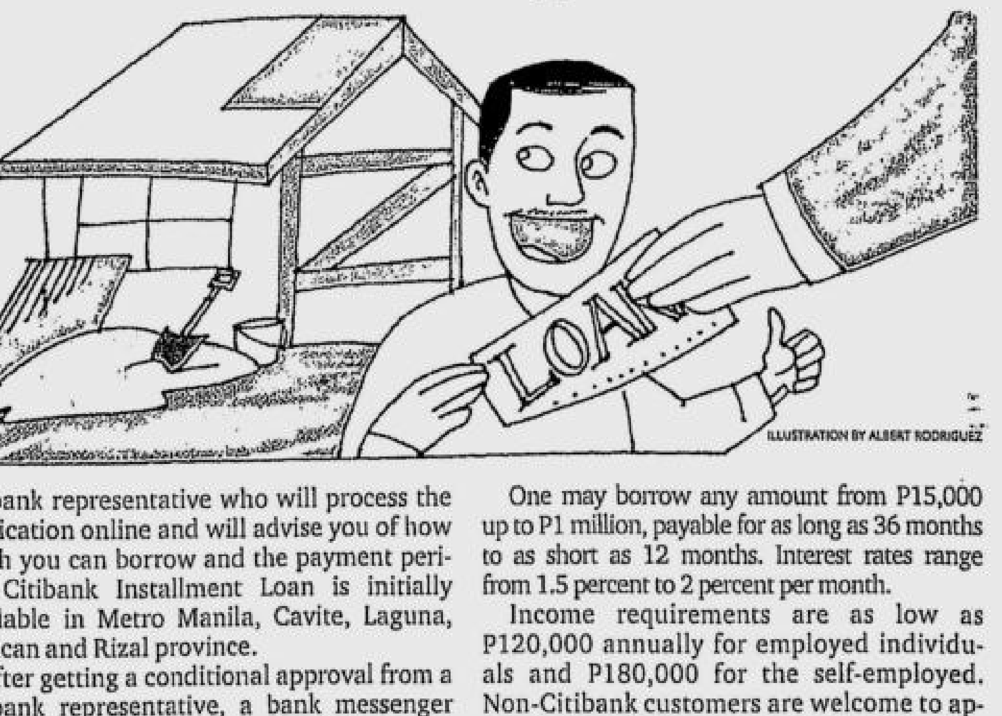

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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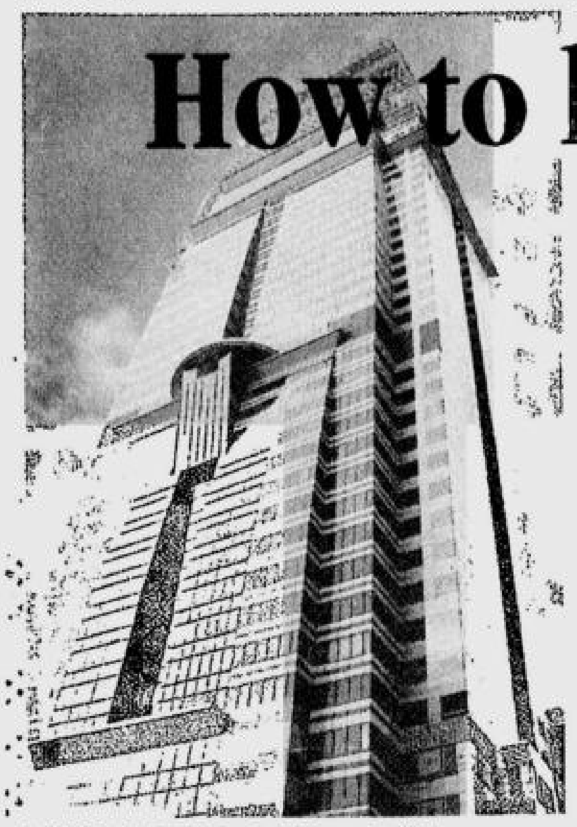
How to know if a building is 'intelligent'



THE 53-STORY Capital Tower Building

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CONCEPT of putting up so-called "intelligent" buildings has caught on as much in Southeast Asia as in other parts of the world, and determined to set a standard in this part of the world is the 53-story Capital Tower building in Singapore.

The Capital Tower in Singapore's financial district is the Singapore headquarters of multinational companies such as the state-run GIC, Cisco, Maybank and Mizuho Bank that were attracted to the building because of its "intelligent" features.

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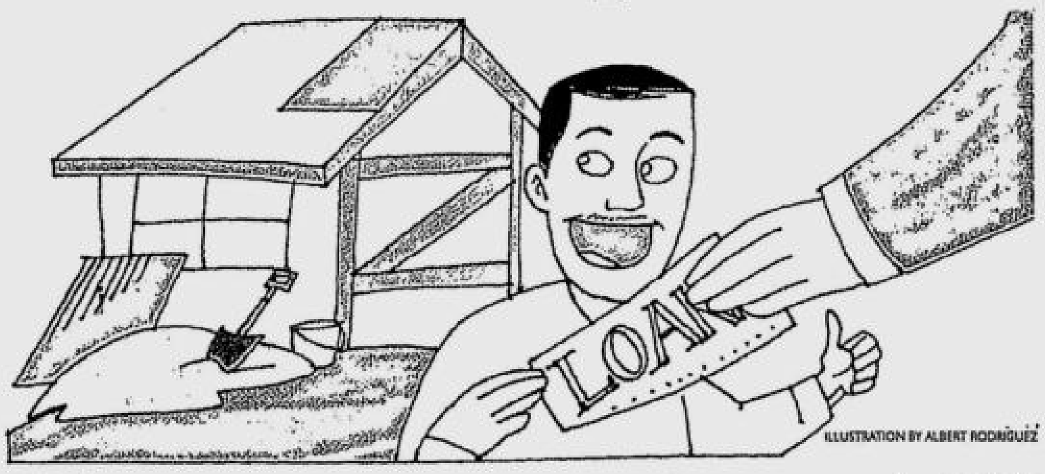

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PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY

PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) as it holds the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP).

PIA has been a prime-mover in attracting investments to Northern Mindanao as it helps bring into the country much needed foreign exchange earnings through exports generated by its locators. It has promoted growth and development of the region through infrastructure and employment generating activities. As the implementing agency of the MCTP, PIA has been pursuing growth and development especially in the countryside. With MCTP, PIA is on its way to achieve its vision to transform the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO) into a fully-developed estate by year 2013, contributing to the economic development of Mindanao.

I am one with you in making our Mindanao people feel the blessings of employment and development.

Uswag Mindanao alang sa kalamboan!

(SGD) H. E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

It is my distinct honor and privilege to congratulate the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) on the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of its Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP).

Through the years, PIA is consistently our country's partner for development by spearheading sustained industrial development in Northern Mindanao. With projects like the MCTP, PIA will further make Northern Mindanao the transshipment hub serving the whole of Mindanao and Visayas.

May the MCTP further heighten and strengthen PIA's dedication to transform the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO) into a fully-developed estate. Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

(SGD) HON. TEOFISTO GUINGONA
Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) on the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) on the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of its Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP). It will definitely serve as a catalyst to economic and industrial development in Misamis Oriental and Northern Mindanao. The realization of becoming a leading agro-industrial area and a major transshipment point in Mindanao truly deserves public commendation.

Kudos to a job well done!

(SGD) HON. AUGUSTO H. BACULIO
Representative, 2nd District-Misamis Oriental

It is truly a deep honor and privilege that I extend my warmest greetings to the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) on the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of its Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP).

On this occasion, I wish to convey my gratitude for the valuable contributions PIA has rendered to the Province of Misamis Oriental. It has fervently initiated growth and development of the region through its various projects like the MCTP. It is foreseen to trigger more employment and income opportunities for the residents of the Northern Mindanao area. The MCTP will also give meaning and spirit to the thrusts of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of making Mindanao the food basket of the country. As Governor of Misamis Oriental and Chairman of Mindanao Water Transport Task Force, let me wish and hope that the partnership we have established will continue to flourish as we unite our efforts towards building a better Philippines!

Congratulations!

(SGD) HON. ANTONIO P. CALINGIN
Governor, Misamis Oriental

Greetings and congratulations to the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority on the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of its Mindanao Container Terminal Project.

PIA has truly proven that PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental is the industrial hub and showcase of Northern Mindanao with the onset of the MCTP.

The MCTP will enhance the mobility of goods and strengthen social and cultural linkages among neighboring countries. It will spur economic and industrial development of Cagayan de Oro and Mindanao.

Congratulations and good luck!

(SGD) HON. VICENTE Y. EMANO
Mayor, Cagayan de Oro City

It is indeed a great pride and honor of every Tagoloanon to have the Mindanao Container Terminal Project in our municipality. We prayerfully hope for the sincerity and success of the project in bridging the true economic development in our area, in Mindanao and the country as a whole.

On its Groundbreaking Ceremonies, my people and I congratulate PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority for making all these possible. We deeply assure you of our support towards the achievement of this great endeavor, further let me take this opportunity to thank you for helping our town—Tagoloan Tarantula.

(SGD) HON. YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO
Mayor, Municipality of Tagoloan

Our warmest greetings and congratulations to the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority as it celebrates the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project.

As PIA envisions itself to become a fully developed Industrial Estate by year 2013 contributing to the economic development of Northern Mindanao, our Municipality will always be a strong partner in all its endeavors and we will continue to do our share in the materialization of PIA's objectives. We are certain that the future will bring more successful years with our joint undertakings. Mabuhay!

(SGD) HON. JULIO T. UY
Mayor, Municipality of Villanueva

As Chairman of the Board of PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA), it is with some sense of fulfillment that this development-oriented project for Mindanao has started to take-off.

Preparing this project involved a high degree of dedication and partnership. Dedication specially from the PIA leaders notably from Administrator Evangelista and our PIA workforce. Foreign Partnership with our funding source, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation; our design and management consultants – the Pacific Consultants International; and our contractors – the Mitsubishi-Kawasaki-Toyo Joint Venture. Local Partnership with the Government Officials of Tagoloan and Villanueva, Misamis Oriental; the different Government Agencies namely, NEDA, DOF, DBM; and the private Sector – the business group of Northern Mindanao. To all who have contributed to the realization of the MCTP – we express our heartfelt appreciation.

We must move on to implement the MCTP with the same spirit of commitment and enthusiasm. We appeal to both the government and private sector to help us and be one with us in realizing this vision.

God bless us!

(SGD) GEN. LISANDRO C. ABADIA (RET.)
Chairman, PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority

JAPAN
Official Development Assistance

Our warmest felicitations to the People of the Republic of the Philippines for the groundbreaking ceremonies of its Mindanao Container Terminal Project (MCTP).

Our Government takes pride in extending assistance in hastening the development program of an ally. PHIVIDEC Industrial Agency (PIA) will surely achieve its goals of making this project the centerpiece of economic prosperity in Northern Mindanao.

We can assure everyone, with your untiring support, that this worthwhile endeavor will be the landmark of progress on this part of your archipelago.

Congratulations and more power!

PGMA Leads Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental last MAy 15, 2002.

One of the visions of the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA) is the development and management of a Port to serve the present and would be locators of PIE-MO. Incidentally, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Medium Term Development Plan identified the need of a modern port in Northern Mindanao.

The MCTP is consistent with the vision of Northern Mindanao to be the transshipment hub serving the whole of Mindanao and Visayas, enhancing the mobility of goods, and strengthening social and cultural linkages between the BIMP-EAGA and the neighboring countries.

The Port will complement the existing Cagayan de Oro Port in handling its present capacity and to accommodate the increasing bulk of cargoes coming from and going to the food basket of the Philippines, Mindanao. The Port is designed to handle containerized, bulk and general cargo both domestic and international.

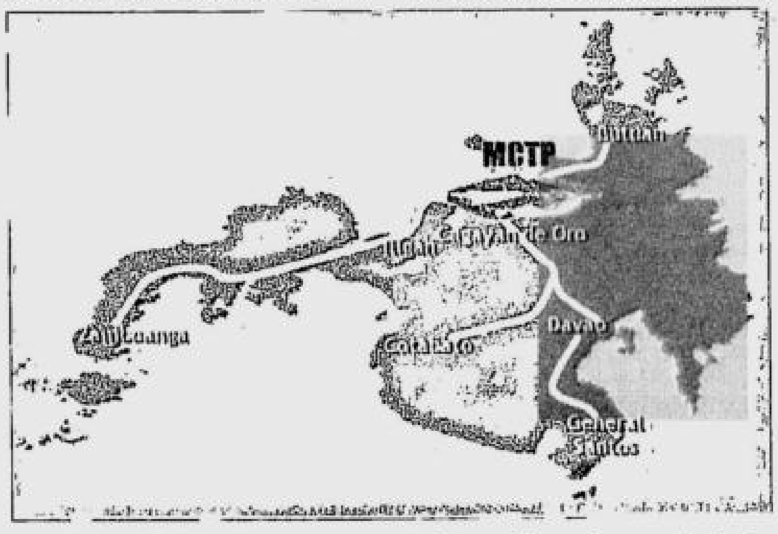
MCTP PHASE I AND II

The **MCTP PHASE I** is a containerized sea port that will have 2 gantry cranes and operation will be fully automated. It has a total project cost of US$ 85.32M. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) granted a loan to PIA, payable in 40 years at 1% interest with 10 years grace period. JBIC will cover 85% of the total project cost while the remaining 15% will be shouldered by PIA. In accordance with the JBIC Loan Agreement, the MCTP (Phase I) will start operating by October 2004. Since PIA is eight months ahead of schedule, actual port operation will start by January 2004. The construction of the Port was awarded to the Mitsubishi-Kawasaki-Toyo Joint Venture. Construction started in February 2002.

The **MCTP PHASE II**, on the other hand, is the Bulk and Food Terminal. It is a modern bulk and food handling facility that would reduce handling cost for fertilizer loading and unloading, and transshipment, ultimately for the benefit of Mindanao farmers. It will have wharf cranes and belt conveyor system. Phase 2 is intended for long-term lease to private operators. It provides storage silos and warehouses.

The MCTP is foreseen to trigger more employment and income opportunities for the residents of the Northern Mindanao area. It is a clear manifestation that the government gives priority to the development of Mindanao. ■

A Perspective of the Mindanao Container Terminal Project Phase I



The MCTP is connected to all major points in Mindanao via arterial roads

PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority—industrial hub of NorMin

The PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority (PIA), a government-owned controlled corporation, manages the largest industrial estate in the Philippines, the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Misamis Oriental (PIE-MO).

PIA is mandated to develop the Estate as an industrial area and to be able to contribute to the economic and social development of Northern Mindanao and spearhead its industrial development.

PIA equips the area with necessary infrastructures to encourage inflow of domestic and foreign investments. PIA, through PIE-MO, answers the Philippine Government's policy to disperse industries to the countryside as a means of equitably distributing resources and to catalyze and sustain social and economic development in the Philippines.

PIE-MO, as an Industrial Estate, has the following advantages:

- Favorable climate throughout the year;
- Outside of typhoon paths and earthquake faults;
- 9 km shoreline which can accommodate jumbo vessels;
- Available facilities and utilities like power, industrial & domestic water and telecommunication (NDD,IDD);
- 0.5 to 1 ha subdivided land ready for occupancy;
- Large tracts of industrial land for investors with large area requirement;
- Stable peace and order condition; and
- Near the amenities of modern living.

PIE-MO investors enjoy the following benefits and incentives:

- Lowest land lease rates (P10–P15/ sq. m./year);
- Duty free importation, if product is meant for foreign market;
- Exemption from wharfage dues if pier is constructed by the investor
- Continued availment of BOI privileges if industry is registered with them; and
- Employment of foreign nationals on technical and management levels.

With the vigor and determination of its management and staff, PIE-MO will definitely become a fully developed industrial estate by year 2013, contributing in the economic development of Mindanao and the Philippines as a whole. ■

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Chairman	Lisandro C. Abadia
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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS
Pawnshop, Alrw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of Feb 2001 will be auctioned on Aug. 22, 8:30 am.
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late PASCUAL C. VINOYA executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition with waiver and renunciation of rights and Special Power of Attorney for TCT No. P-2723 Bukidnon on June 10, 2002 as per Doc.No. 163 Page No. 34 Book No. 18 Series of 2002 of Notary Public Julita Aniñgat of Pasay City.
PDI-July30, Aug.6&13, 2002

A coffee shop in its pre-opening stage in a downtown mall is looking for the following personnel

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

1 OUTLET MANAGER
2 SUPERVISORS
1 HEAD COOK

- ✓ Male/Female
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ 25 to 35 years old
- ✓ Must have a minimum of 3 years F&B experience with at least 2 years in a supervisory capacity
- ✓ Career oriented and can work with minimum supervision
- ✓ Pre-opening experience an advantage

Qualified applicants may apply in person with their application letter, resumé and 2x2 picture on **August 14, 2002** and look for Ms. Leila Dallo.

27/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza
22 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
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Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City
Corporation Finance Department

IN THE MATTER OF :
:
ALGS FINANCING :
& INVESTMENT :
CORPORATION :

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a financing company pursuant to Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998).

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P 10,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	10,000,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
Minda Alano	President
Dulce Amor Filtaro	Vice President
Nielsa Alano	Director
Felicisimo Alano	Director
Noel Dulay	Director
Emilia Pelaez	Director
Nenita Dinglasan	Treasurer

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. 8556, the implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

August 1, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 6 & 13, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID G6-2002-007

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2002; 10:00 am	
A1	1 LOT	WORK ORDER: REHAB OF SUCTION PIT STRAINERS OF COLD BASIN, TIWI AB & C	3TIW-02-0017A
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 12, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A2	1 LOT	WORK ORDER: COST OF LABOR AND MATERIALS IN THE REPAIR/ RECONDITIONING OF ISOLATION VALVE OF TIWI AB & C	3TIW-02-0023
		DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 13, 2002; 10:00 AM	
B1	70 SETS 1 REEL	TENSION/SUSPENSION INSULATOR OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE HIGH STRENGTH GRADE: 5,000 FT/REEL, 3/8 OR 7/16 WITH INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING	3TIW-02-0065
B2	1 SET	ONE (1) INCH DRIVE AIR IMPACT WRENCHES, WITH COMPLETE SOCKET SIZE AND HOSE	3INGP02-0022
B3	1 SET	AIR COMPRESSOR, RECIPROCATING MOTOR DRIVEN, 10 HP PORTABLE	3INGP02-0023

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 - AUGUST 28, 2002; 9:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
2) A2 - AUGUST 28, 2002; 10:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room
3) B1 - AUGUST 28, 2002; 11:00 a.m. at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50.00 starting August 8, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Aug. 5 & 13, 2002)

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MARIA TERESA RAZÓN

Peacefully joined her Creator on 11 August 2002.

Her sons ***Christian*** *and* ***Freddy Gonzalez***
loving companion ***Joe Hagedorn, Jr.***
mother ***Josephine Razón***
brothers and sisters ***Louie*** *and* ***Gigi***
Lisa *and* ***Steve***, ***Mari***, ***Ricky*** *and* ***Lizzy***
nephews and nieces, request the readers
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Capilla del Señor
of Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be at 10 o'clock in the morning
on Thursday, 15 August 2002
at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

MANUELA VIRI BUENCAMINO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 11, 2002

The family, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Buencamino Residence in San Jose, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on August 14, 2002 (Wednesday) after a 10:00 a.m. Mass at Buencamino Mausoleum in Sta. Rita, San Miguel, Bulacan.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Our Dearly Beloved

Antonio G. Peñafuerte

President & Owner, Funeraria Filipinas, Inc.
Las Piñas and Makati Branch

Peacefully joined his Creator on Sunday,
August 11, 2002 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **LIGAYA**; children **EDDIE, LINDA, TESSIE, BECKY, IRMA, BELEN & BOY**; son and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Filipinas Chapel, Las Piñas City.

Funeral Mass and interment will be on Thursday, August 15, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. instead of Saturday, August 17, 2002 as earlier announced at Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas.

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VIRGINIA BALTAZAR MANIÑGAT

now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 8th of August 2002 at the age of 80.

Her loving children **Marcia** & **Robert**, **Betty** & **Ding**, **Caring** & **Enchong**, **Panching** & **Mervin**, and **Monching** & **Belle**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at Balayan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 15, 2002 at the Garden of Gethsemane after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Balayan, Batangas.

"From darkness let the light shine!"

Genesis 1:3

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(July 25, 1909 - July 31, 2002)
Widow of Mr. Quintin Paguirigan

for her dedicated and competent services as the first Operating Room Nurse (1933 to 1956) of Lorma Medical Center; for her many Scholarship Grants at the Lorma Colleges; and for the love and generosity she had shown to us during her lifetime.

We thank all who condoled with her family through their prayers, gifts, labor, and other offerings.

Gov't urged to impose tariff on steel

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT must put in place the tariff barriers to steel imports in order to attract more bidders who will be willing to put new money into National Steel Corp. for the reopening of its Iligan factory.

A source from one of the interested bidders for NSC said creditor-banks would have a hard time getting interested buyers for the steel giant considering the scheduled reduction in tariff rates on steel products and the three years that the plant was idle.

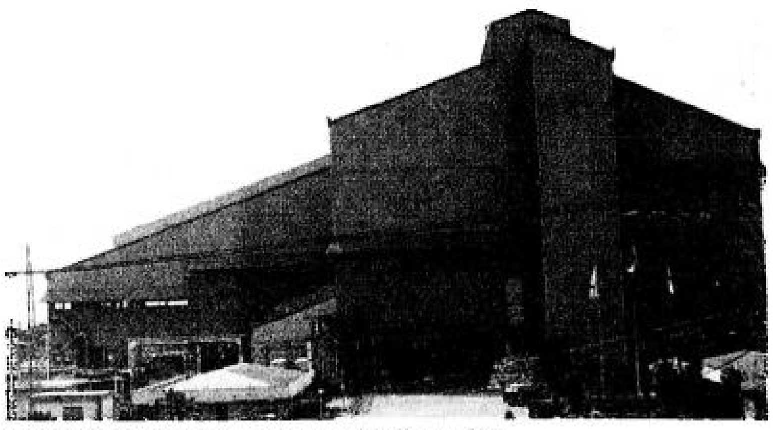
The three companies that tendered offers for NSC in a bidding initiated by the Department of Trade and Industry last year were Cathay Pacific Steel Corp., Allengoal Corp., and Voest Alpine. The bidding, however, was aborted after the Malaysian owner, Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd., agreed to a debt-to-equity conversion offered by local banks.

The debt conversion, which would reduce Danaharta's stake from 82.5 percent to 20 percent, is seen as the first step in getting new investors to steer back the company to profitability.

The source said the government failure to protect the local steel industry (despite the growing trend toward imposing high tariff walls against steel imports as typified by the United States) has dampened interest in NSC.

Duties on NSC's main products—7 percent for cold and hot rolled coils and 3 percent for billets—were expected to go down further in the next few years based on the country's commitment to the Asean Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization.

The source said no bidder would want to risk paying millions of dollars to NSC without any assurance that the government would give the industry tariff protection. The source said the tariff protection should be in place before the new investor would come in.



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Exchange suspends Picop trading

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday suspended indefinitely the trading of integrated wood processing firm Picop Resources Inc. for its failure to renew its corporate license.

In a circular issued yesterday, PSE president Ernest Leung said the exchange acted based on a letter from the Securities and Exchange Commission saying that Picop's license and, therefore, its corporate life expired on March 31 this year.

The SEC said Picop must pay P12 million in filing fee if it wanted to renew its license.

In response to an inquiry made by the PSE, SEC associate commissioner Jesus Enrique Martinez said that contrary to Picop's claim, the company's license expired in end-March because it did not pay the appropriate filing fee.

Picop has reportedly informed the commission that it would pay the P12 million "under protest."

"We will approve the extension of its corporate life (if it will pay) but we will state that we will not confirm or validate actions that were performed by the corporation between the time its license expired and the time it will get the extension," Martinez said.

Picop claimed it had filed its application for a 50-year extension and paid P210 in fee when its license expired on March 31 this year.

The commission informed the company on April 9 of the deficiency in the filing fee and gave it 30 days to rectify it.

Martinez said letters of reconsideration had been sent by Picop's counsels. However, he said the SEC did not think that those letters could be used as sufficient basis to stall the completion of the filing process.

Martinez said that to date, Picop has yet to meet the requirement and so, by law, the company's corporate life was deemed to have expired.

NTC rejects Extelcom plea for frequency

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission said Express Telecommunications Co. Inc. had to make do with its existing digital frequency first before setting its sights on seeking additional bandwidth.

In an interview, NTC common carriers authorization department (CCAD) head Edgardo Cabarios said the cash-strapped telecom firm should proceed with the rollout of its global system for mobile communications (GSM) infrastructure despite having only 5 megahertz of frequency.

"They should first test the market with their existing frequency and determine whether they would still need additional frequency for their GSM," he said.

Extelcom was granted 5-megahertz (MHz) frequency on the 900/1800 bandwidth in September last year. With this GSM frequency, the telecom firm started to concretize its plans to go digital by filing with the NTC a notice of purchase for GSM equipment that same month.

A company source earlier revealed that the firm was supposed to launch GSM services within the first half of 2002. Extelcom is the last remaining analog-only player in the country's cellular market.

Extelcom president Filomena Veto said in an earlier interview that the company would shelve plans to go digital until it posted positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) this month and improved its subscriber base to 120,000 to 150,000 by the end of the year. Its subscriber base is presently at 100,000.

"We have to be more self-sufficient and prove that we are a credible company before we venture into anything new," she said.

Veto added that the 5 MHz of digital frequency was not enough to enable Extelcom to compete with major players Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

"Where can we go with five MHz? We're already using our existing five MHz of GSM frequency to test our GSM network," she said.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Fitness

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Practical tips from successful 'losers'

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

They used similar techniques to maintain their weight: Eating breakfast, a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet, self-monitoring and exercising one hour every day

"MAINTAINING weight loss is difficult because it is hard to make permanent changes in behavior. It's easy to eat less and exercise more for a few days or a few weeks, but the key is making permanent changes." Words of wisdom from Dr. James Hill, cofounder of the National Weight Control Registry (NWCR), an eight-year-old ongoing study on how its 3,000-plus members have lost weight and kept it off. These successful "losers" have lost an average of 66 pounds and kept it off for six years. As inspiring as their success is, it's even more inspiring when you find out that most of them had been overweight since they were teenagers, that they came from families with a history of obesity, and that their average age is 45.

They used many different methods to lose weight but four similar techniques to maintain their weight: Eating breakfast, eating a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet (24-percent fat, 56-percent carbohydrates, 19-percent protein), self-monitoring, and exercising one hour every day.

They have been interviewed by many TV shows, magazines, and newspapers about what they do to maintain their weight. Here are some of the practical tips they have shared.

Attitude

Like many other things in life, success begins with the right attitude. The NWCR participants report that they didn't just change the way they eat and exercise, but they also changed the way they think about weight loss. They realize that they can never go back to their old couch-potato/junk-food lifestyle so they developed diet and exercise strategies that they can live with.

They accept that they may never reach their desired weight (many started with unrealistic goals like wanting to be as slim as a model) but they instead focus on maintaining the weight that they have already lost.

They believe that they have the power to change their destiny and have stopped blaming their fat genes. They accept that they have to make more of an extra effort to maintain their weight compared to other people. They recognize that they are different from other people so they only do what works for them.

They are not perfect but when they have lapses, they recover quickly. They don't wait for Monday, or the first of the month, or the end of their vacation to start making corrections.

They know that the weight will come back if they are not vigilant, so they are constantly monitoring their weight. Some weigh themselves everyday, others once a week. Others use their clothes or a tape measure to keep track of their size. Others write down everything they eat in a food diary. Many report using some type of a logbook to write down their weight, food, measurements and progress in exercise (how many miles they walked, how many minutes they exercised, etc.).

Diet

Some participants felt that if you deny yourself your favorite goodies, you will eventually binge and eat uncontrollably. Their strategies to stay in control include having weekend rewards, allowing yourself one goody per day, and balancing high-calorie/high-fat food by eating less the next meal or the next day.

Other participants reported that if they had just one bite of a temptation, they would lose all control. These people removed all junk food and other high-calorie items from their homes. If they really wanted something, they would have to go out to buy it, then eat it in public where it is much harder to binge. They also used the strategy of lower calorie substitutions, for example, an ice sherbet instead of an extra-rich scoop of ice cream.

Dine out, but eat light. Sharing an order with a friend, using a "doggy bag," not ordering appetizers or dessert, eating low-calorie meals during the day in anticipation of a dinner at night, are some of the strategies used by the participants. They also reported becoming educated about the calorie content of fast-food meals so they could make better choices.

The participants reported experimenting with their favorite recipes to lower the calories. They did this by substituting high-calorie ingredients for lower calorie ones and trimming the fat and oil. This is more realistic than eating bland "diet" food that you dislike.

The majority reported eating plenty of fruits and vegetables to fill them up. Also, they switched from low-fiber products made with refined white flour to high-fiber products like whole wheat bread and pasta.

They drank a lot of water. Many reported watching out for "wet" calories from packaged ice teas, sports drinks, softdrinks, processed sugary "fruit" drinks, smoothies and specialty coffee drinks with cream and syrup. They were also aware that even natural fruit juices cannot be abused and drank the whole day.

Not only did they eat breakfast but they also did not skip meals. They planned what kind of snacks they would have so they wouldn't just eat anything that was around.

Exercise

Although they exercise an average of one hour a day, many reported doing it by breaking down the one hour into 10 or 15-minute sessions throughout the day.

They try to get more exercise out of the day by making efforts to move more like parking far away, personally delivering a message to a co-worker in another department rather than just e-mailing them, walking around while talking on the telephone, taking a 10-minute walk before and after lunch, and taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

To keep track of how much physical activity they are getting, some use pedometers or digimeters. These are small devices attached to your waistband that count how many steps you take or how many miles/kilometers you have walked for the day. They are available in local sporting good stores. The well-made ones cost P800 and up.

Studies have found that people who are overweight take about 5,000 steps a day or less, while people who have successfully lost weight and kept it off take 10,000 to 12,000 steps a day or walk about four to five miles a day.

If you want to find out how active you really are, a pedometer is a cheap way to find out. As one participant said, "People swear they walk about 10 miles a day, saying they're active, on their feet all day. They 'feel' like they're burning calories but they're really standing around, not moving."

I bought one for myself recently and discovered that an average 45-minute aerobic class (step, Latin, kickboxing, low-impact) is equivalent to about 5,000 steps.

If you don't have time for "structured" exercise, a pedometer is a good way to make sure that you get the required number of steps a day. If you find out at lunchtime that you have only taken 3,000 steps so far, you can then make an effort to be more active in the afternoon and early evening to catch up.

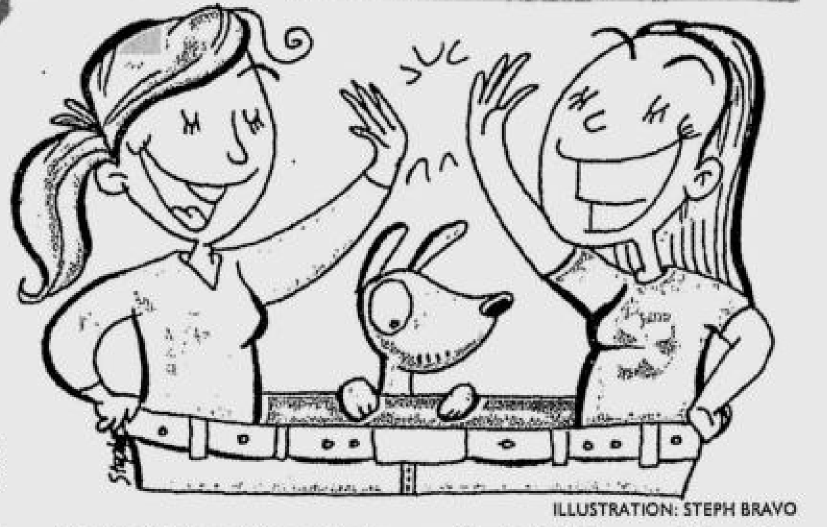


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

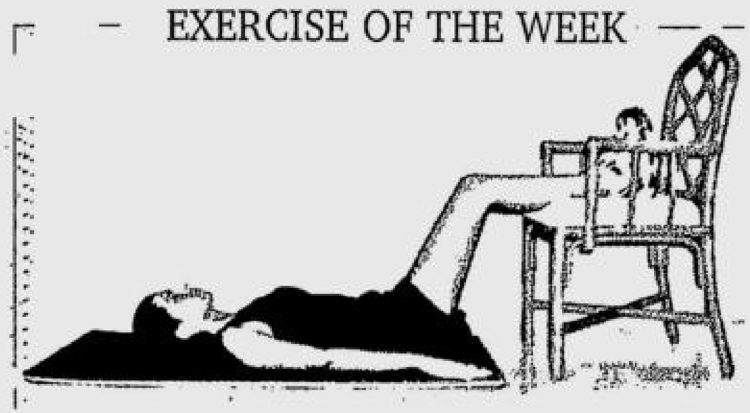
The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) announces that the Aug. 24 Fitness Seminar has been postponed to Sept. 21. The Life Fitness Academy has also been postponed but there is no definite date yet.

Watch "In Fitness and In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

Please write me at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail at fitness@ibm.net

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Chair buttocks lift

TIGHTENS and strengthens the muscles of the buttocks and hamstrings (behind the thighs)

Equipment:

A chair and an exercise mat

Exercise technique:

Lie on the exercise mat with your knees bent and heels on the seat of a chair. Press down on the chair with your heels to lift your buttocks, lower back and upper back off the floor. Hold for a second or two. Slowly lower your body down to the floor.

Performance tips:

Tighten your abdominal muscles before you even press down with your heels.

Focus on pressing down with your heels and allowing your hips to rise naturally rather than clenching the cheeks of your buttocks together.

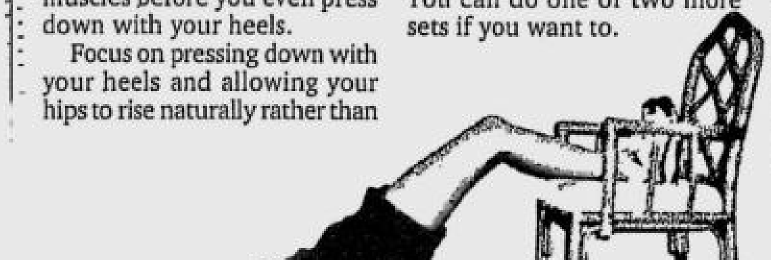
Don't allow your lower back to sag or overarch. Your body should form a straight line from your upper back to your knees.

To modify the exercise and make it easier, try putting both feet on the floor or place your heels on a low stool.

To make the exercise harder, try doing it with one heel on the chair and the other leg straight and extended without touching the chair.

Repetitions:

Do 15-20 repetitions. Rest. You can do one or two more sets if you want to.



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[illegible]	None	None	None
[illegible]	Option	Option	Standard
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[illegible]	None	Standard	Standard
[illegible]	None	Standard	Standard
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[illegible]	Free	None	Free
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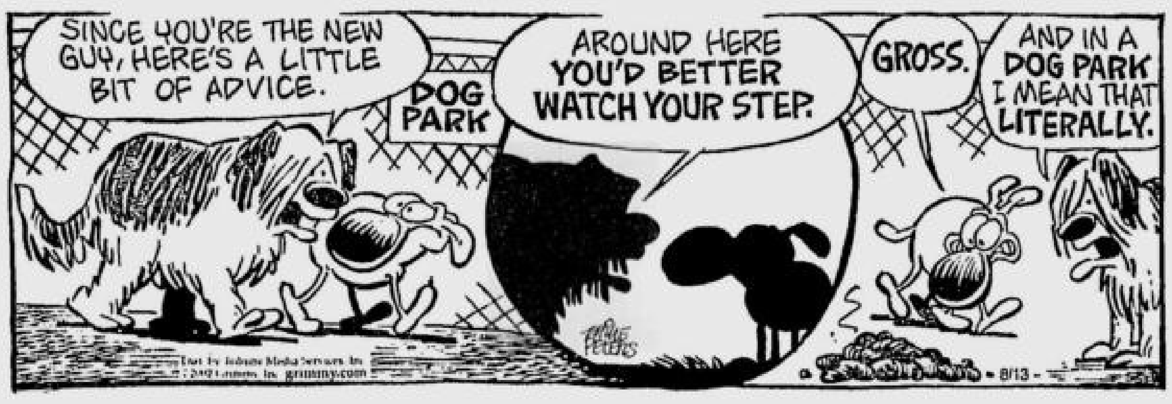
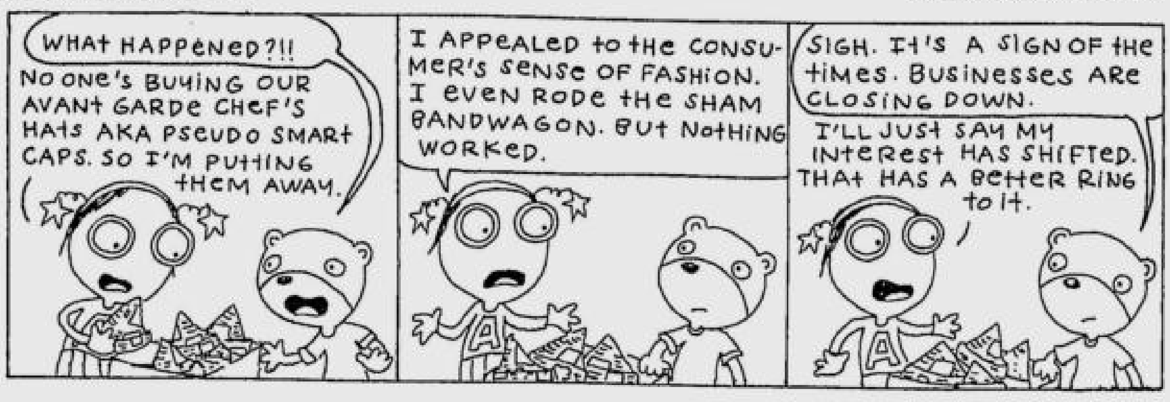
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SINCE YOU'RE THE NEW GUY, HERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF ADVICE.
DOG PARK
AROUND HERE YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP.
GROSS.
AND IN A DOG PARK I MEAN THAT LITERALLY.
8/13

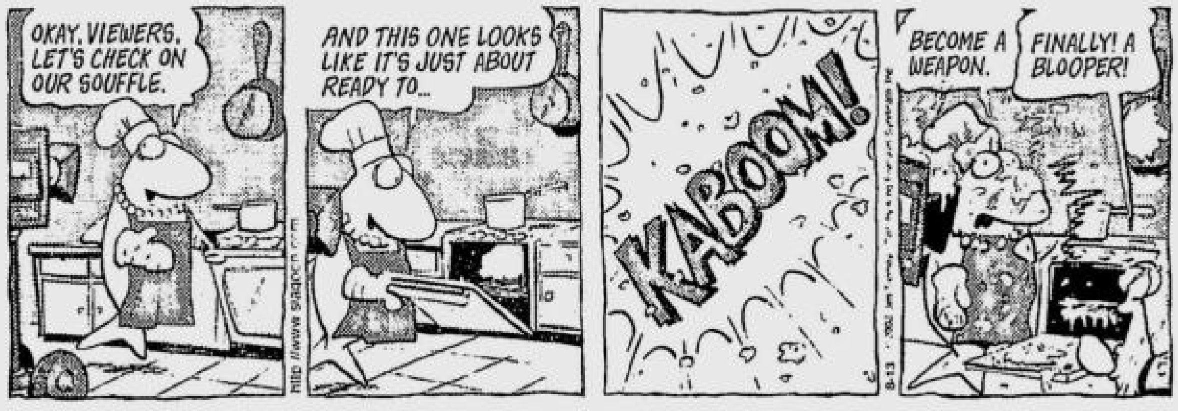
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT HAPPENED?!!
NO ONE'S BUYING OUR AVANT GARDE CHEF'S HATS AKA PSEUDO SMART CAPS. SO I'M PUTTING THEM AWAY.
I APPEALED TO THE CONSUMER'S SENSE OF FASHION. I EVEN RODE THE SHAM BANDWAGON. BUT NOTHING WORKED.
SIGH. IT'S A SIGN OF THE TIMES. BUSINESSES ARE CLOSING DOWN.
I'LL JUST SAY MY INTEREST HAS SHIFTED. THAT HAS A BETTER RING TO IT.

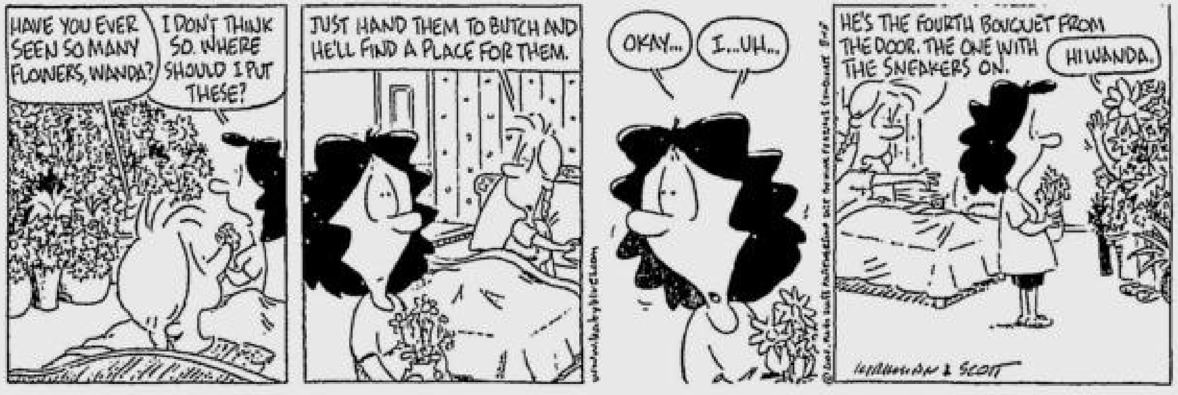
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, VIEWERS, LET'S CHECK ON OUR SOUFFLE.
AND THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST ABOUT READY TO...
KABOOM!
BECOME A WEAPON.
FINALLY! A BLOOPER!
8-13

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SO MANY FLOWERS, WANDA?
I DON'T THINK SO. WHERE SHOULD I PUT THESE?
JUST HAND THEM TO BUTCH AND HE'LL FIND A PLACE FOR THEM.
OKAY...
I...UH...
HE'S THE FOURTH BOUQUET FROM THE DOOR. THE ONE WITH THE SNEAKERS ON.
HI WANDA.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cheech Marin, Harrison Ford, Mark Mendoza, Patrick Stewart

Happy Birthday: You'll want too much too fast and must discover how to sit back and learn the ropes first. Your vision will be broad when it comes to your career objectives, but keep in mind that you can't start at the top. Your ability to intuitively understand your friends will help you form solid partnerships this year. Your numbers are 3, 7, 19, 28, 36, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The best thing you can do is to get fit and prepare to be and do your best. Competitive sports or anything that challenges you should be on your agenda. You'll be hard to defeat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Traveling will result in added knowledge and inspiration that will help spark some innovative ideas. Good connections can be made at the places you visit or the talks you attend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will want to avoid any sort of dispute with loved ones today. Someone may be acting strange or giving you the cold shoulder. Don't be too quick to accept a financial deal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Entertainment or group activities will promote new love relationships if you're single, and friendships if you're not. The people you meet will be intrigued by your knowledge and your excellent memory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It may be time to take a more practical approach to your livelihood and start to do what you know you can do best. Don't let someone hold you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to spice up your life and your looks. You should concentrate on enhancing your appeal today. Don't let emotional matters drag you down. Get involved in something you believe in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone may be trying to undermine you today. Don't be too quick to let others know what you're up to. It's time to let go of people and situations that have not been good for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can help out an organization you believe in and feel good about yourself while helping a worthy cause. The interaction with new people will do you good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful what you say. You will find yourself in the center of a misunderstanding if you exaggerated about something or have been evading issues. Emotional matters must be dealt with quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get on a plane, boat, train or in your car and take off. You need some new scenery and excitement. The more you can do to expand your outlook, the better.

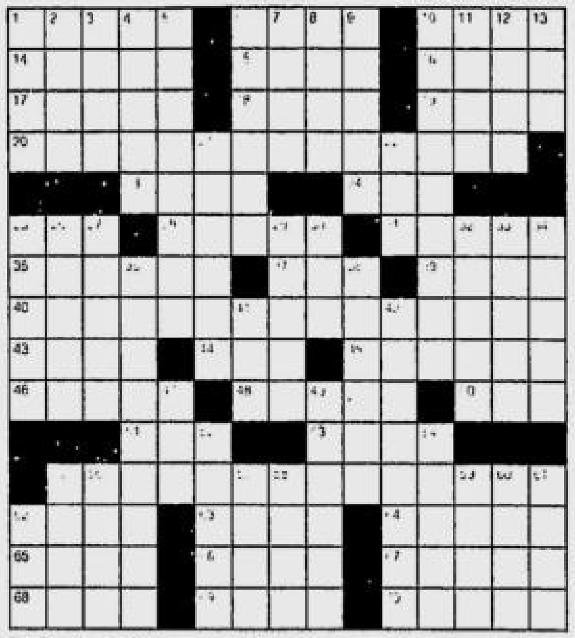
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take time to help someone who isn't capable of doing for himself. Your kind gesture will be appreciated and you will receive valuable information from this person in return. There is nothing better than first-hand information coupled with experience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be in a friendly mood and will enjoy sharing some of your thoughts with the right person. This is the perfect day to start a new relationship or rekindle the one you're in.

Birthday Baby: You will be flexible by nature and will always look at all sides of an issue. You will have an intense curiosity about everything, and sometimes you will do things just to find out why you shouldn't.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/13/02

ACROSS
1 Michigan and Ontario
6 Swabbing tools
10 Cutlet meat
14 Representative
15 Fiery gem
16 "Othello" character
17 Windfall
18 Track event
19 Low card
20 80-day trip?
23 Brainchild
24 __ Lanka
25 Boom periods
28 Topsoil
31 Of sound quality
35 Epistle
37 Marry
39 Actress Kedrova
40 Burn one's bridges
43 Writer Wiesel
44 Hurry!
45 Game played with 32 cards
46 Right-hand page
48 Musial and Getz
50 Tee preceder
51 Take to court
53 Pen fluids
55 Location of El Dorado?
62 Not kosher
63 Tiller
64 Wide-eyed
65 Indigo plant
66 New York state canal
67 D sharp
68 Say it ain't so
69 Horse shade
70 Fencing confrontations

DOWN
1 Tibetan priest
2 Culture medium
3 Las Vegas game
4 Boredom
5 SRO crowd
6 Portable cannon
7 Colorful marine fish
8 Rate of speed
9 Oodles and oodles
10 Bitterly scathing
11 British noble title
12 Ripened
13 Myrna of "The Thin Man"
21 Lack
22 Food scrap
25 Digestive disorder
26 Former D.C. hostess Mesta
27 Follower of Zeno
29 Canary sound
30 One of those girls
32 Wall recess
33 French interjection
34 Bowling alleys
36 Sleeping-sickness spreader
38 Prokofiev opera, with "The"
41 That guy's
42 Of tragedy
47 "__ Gang"
49 Flyers
52 Old anesthetic
54 Military mess
55 Caen's river
56 Layer of ore
57 Champion
58 Lamb's pen name
59 Digestive fluid
60 Oblong circle
61 Moistens
62 Small amount

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	M	A	R	T		S	A	I	L		A	L	M	S
U	D	D	E	R		L	O	N	E		R	E	A	L
B	L	A	S	E		U	N	T	O		T	O	N	I
J	I	M	P	A	L	M	E	R		P	H	N	O	M
				S	A	P		E	S	T	U	A	R	Y
O	D	D	J	O	B	S		P	E	A	H			
K	A	R	E	N	S		M	I	A		A	C	I	S
A	M	A	S	S		L	I	D		P	S	H	A	W
Y	F	W	S		S	A	X		S	A	H	A	R	A
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F	I	S	H	E	R	Y		E	A	R				
I	N	T	E	I		J	A	C	K	O	A	K	I	E
F	U	E	L		L	A	N	K		T	R	E	S	S
T	R	I	M		O	N	T	O		E	G	R	E	T
H	E	N	S		T	E	E	N		D	O	N	E	E

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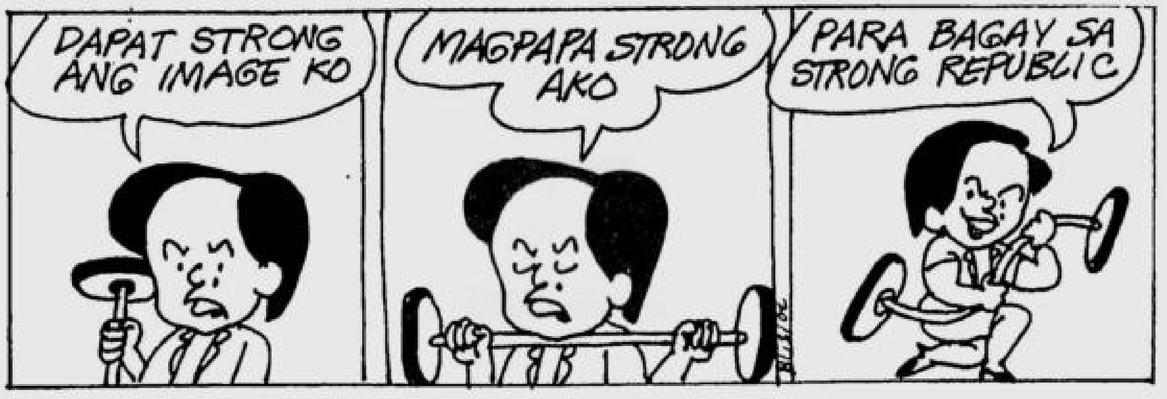
8/13/02

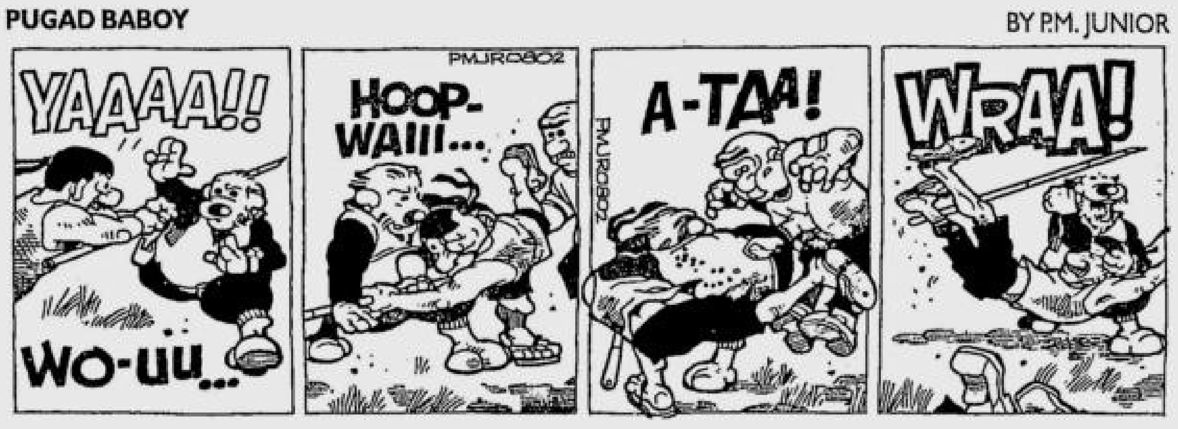
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT STRONG ANG IMAGE KO
MAGPAPA STRONG AKO
PARA BAGAY SA STRONG REPUBLIC

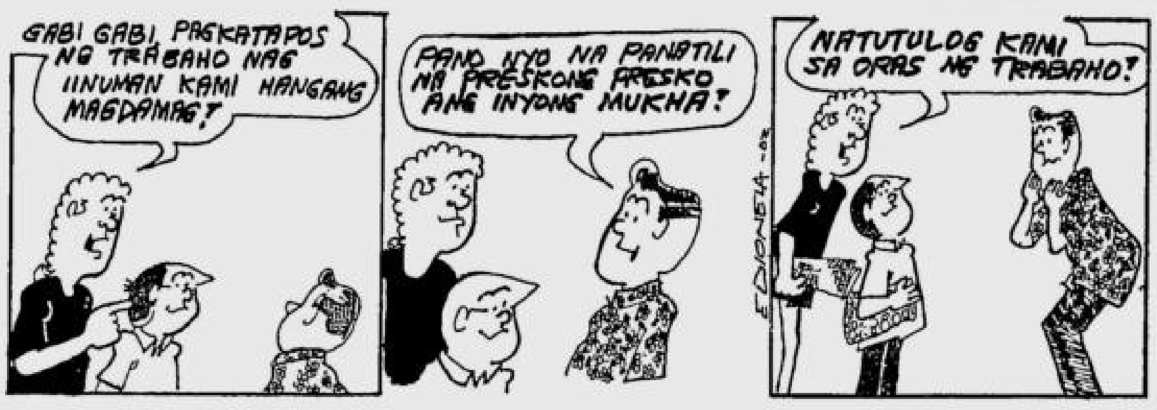
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


YAAAA!!
WO-UU...
PMJR0802
HOOP-WAIII...
PMJR0802
A-TAA!
WRAA!

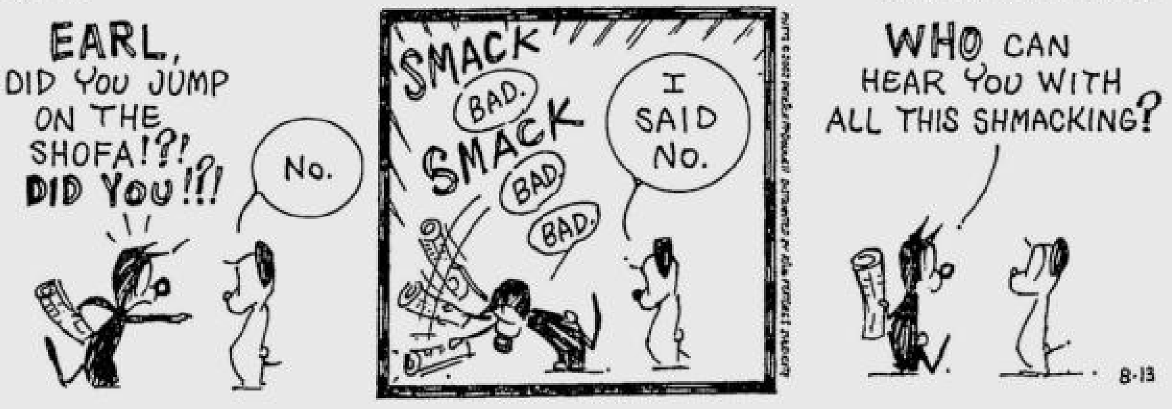
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


GABI GABI, PAGKATAPOS NG TRABAHO NAG IINUMAN KAMI HANGGANG MAGDAMAG?
PANO NYO NA PANATILI NA PRESKONG PRESKO ANG INYONG MUKHA?
NATUTULOG KAMI SA ORAS NG TRABAHO!
E. DIONELA

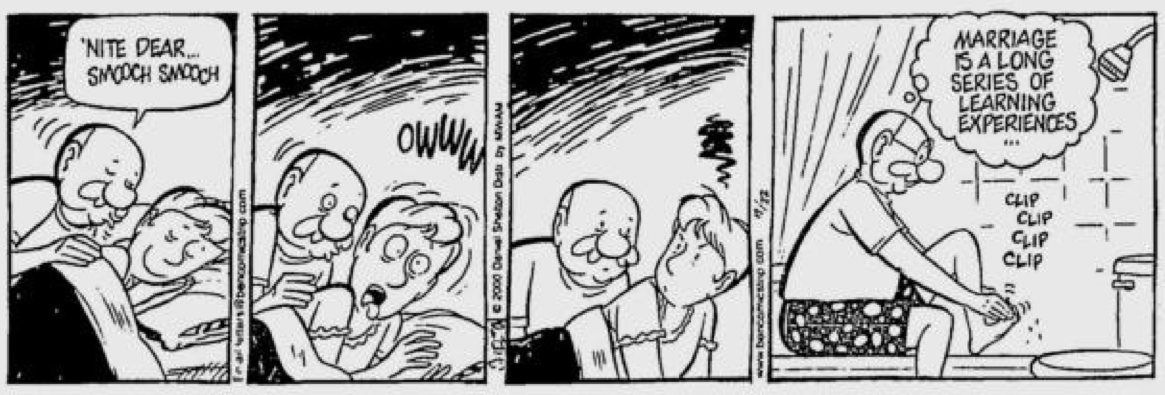
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, DID YOU JUMP ON THE SHOFA!?! DID YOU!?!
No.
SMACK
BAD.
SMACK
BAD.
BAD.
I SAID NO.
WHO CAN HEAR YOU WITH ALL THIS SHMACKING?
8-13

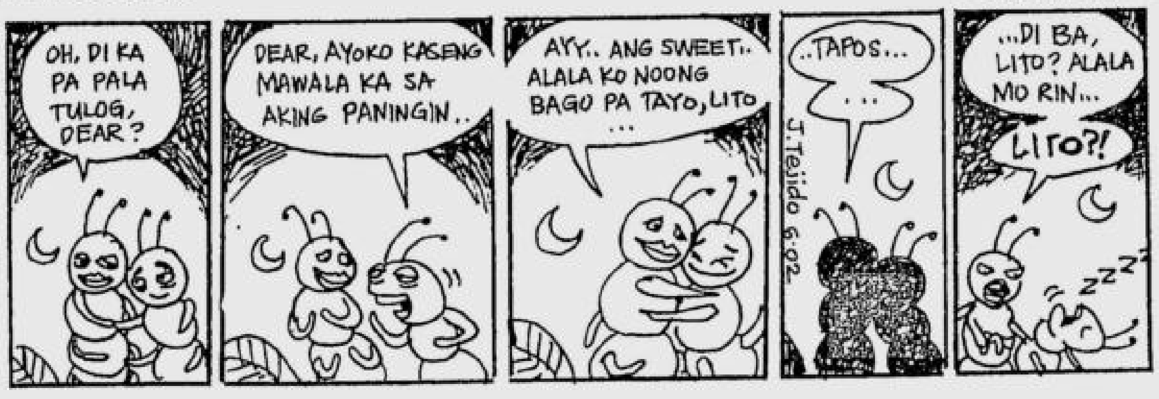
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


'NITE DEAR... SMOOCH SMOOCH
OWWW
MARRIAGE IS A LONG SERIES OF LEARNING EXPERIENCES ...
CLIP CLIP CLIP CLIP

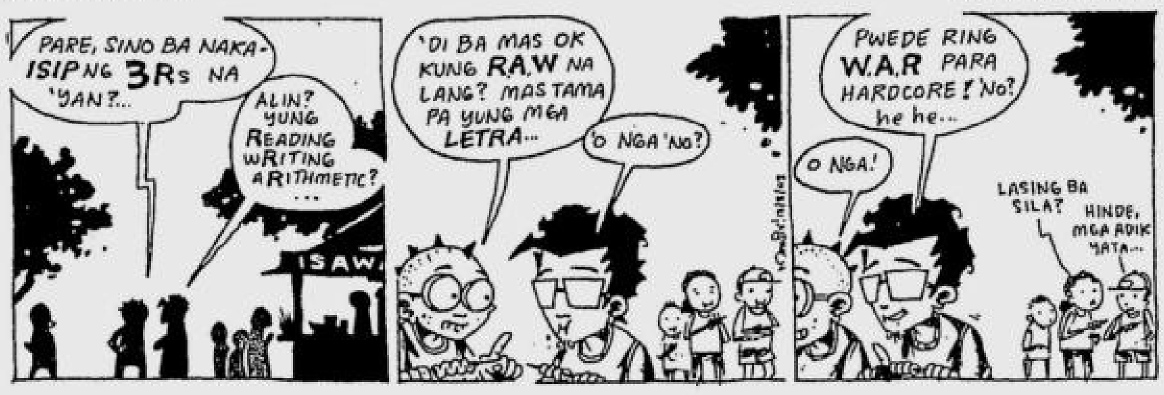
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OH, DI KA PA PALA TULOG, DEAR?
DEAR, AYOKO KASENG MAWALA KA SA AKING PANINGIN..
AYY.. ANG SWEET.. ALALA KO NOONG BAGO PA TAYO, LITO ...
..TAPOS... ...
J. Tejido 6.02
...DI BA, LITO? ALALA MO RIN...
LITO?!
ZZZ

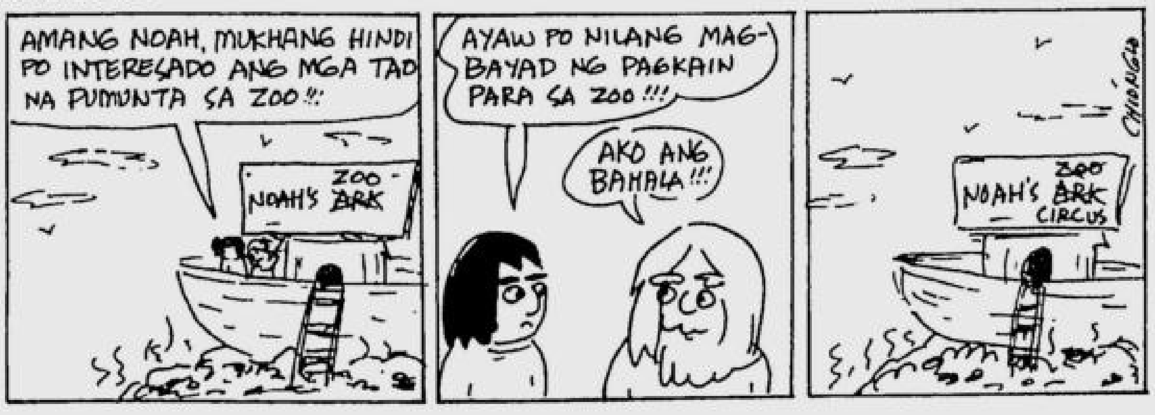
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE, SINO BA NAKA-ISIP NG 3Rs NA 'YAN?...
ALIN? YUNG READING WRITING ARITHMETIC? ...
ISAW
'DI BA MAS OK KUNG RAW NA LANG? MAS TAMA PA YUNG MGA LETRA...
'O NGA 'NO?
PWEDE RING W.A.R PARA HARDCORE! 'NO? he he...
O NGA!
LASING BA SILA?
HINDE, MGA ADIK YATA...

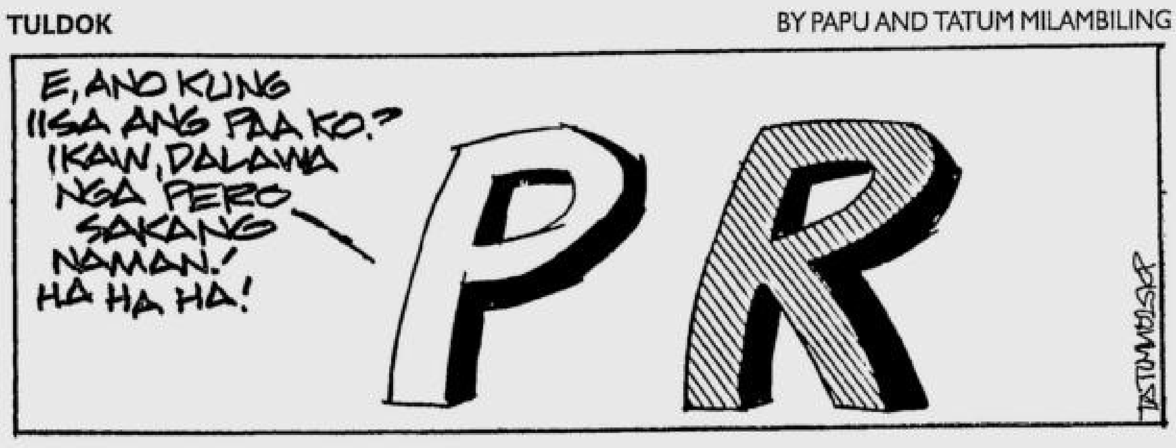
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AMANG NOAH, MUKHANG HINDI PO INTERESADO ANG MGA TAO NA PUMUNTA SA ZOO!!
NOAH'S ~~ARK~~ ZOO
AYAW PO NILANG MAG-BAYAD NG PAGKAIN PARA SA ZOO!!!
AKO ANG BAHALA!!!
NOAH'S ~~ARK~~ ~~ZOO~~ CIRCUS
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


E, ANO KUNG IISA ANG PAA KO? IKAW, DALAWA NGA PERO SAKANG NAMAN! HA HA HA!
P
R

Involve heart and soul in knowing what you desire

Part II

"It is not the number of years that make you grow old, it is losing your ideals. Time may wrinkle your skin but losing your ideals wrinkle the soul."—Gen. Douglas MacArthur

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

EXPLORING the possibilities of delaying the aging process is a challenge to those who want to stay young forever.

The impression of having defied time is exclusive to those who have chosen to evolve. Thus, people who look biologically younger than their chronological age are those who successfully involve their hearts in unleashing and expressing their desires. They give honor to their creative selves.

The following formula is inspired by Deepak Chopra, M.D., "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" (PowerBooks, National Book Store).

The timeless way

The way you age is the result of who you are. If you embrace a positive approach to your life and all its challenges—physical, emotional, spiritual—then you have a head start. Positive means knowing what is good for you—the food you eat, the relationships you have, the work you do, the habits you keep—in short, the lifestyle that involves your body, heart and soul. Negative means knowing what is not good for you and your personal growth, and despite the knowledge, you hold on to your unhealthy lifestyle. You are likened to a drug addict who continues to be enslaved by choice and by want.

Warning signals

When you ignore your own basic needs, you will experience the following:

- Heart and arteries are compromised—cardiovascular problems.
- Muscles and skeleton become fragile.
- High risk for obesity
- Depression
- Premature aging

You cannot begin a wellness program too soon or too late. Practicing good health begins in a mother's womb. Creation is a force imprinted in our physiological and spiritual blueprint. And you can make and remake yourself by tapping this creative energy. But you have "to open some space for growth in your life, and the more consciously you follow it, the more unlimited the growth will be."

Creative action plan

Experiencing silence. Finding your core of silence is like reaching an oasis in the middle of the desert. Quieting your mind will calm your spirit. Practice 10 minutes of meditation in the morning and 10 minutes before bedtime. In the noisy madness they call life, recover your sanity in silence.

Spending time in nature. Remove yourself from the artificial confines of the material world by returning to nature. Find a piece of sky, a patch of earth, a burst of sunlight—your main menu for recharging your battered senses.

Experiencing and trusting emotions. Try beginning a journal of your feelings. Make notes on key emotions you feel on a daily basis. Any recurring or persistent feeling is a message to you to find the source of that feeling and to resolve it.

Positive emotions: love, joy, happiness, trust, sympathy, compassion, acceptance, friendliness.

Abstract feelings: faith, insight, peace, intuition, forgiveness.

Negative emotions: guilt, anger, envy, sorrow, distrust, greediness, anxiety.

Repressing an emotion by trying to forget it or denying its existence is a form of imprisonment. It will soon paralyze your being and deprive you of the happiness you desire through the liberation of your heart.

Remaining centered amid chaos. Even in the midst of confusion, you must focus. Five minutes of centering daily is good to keep you balanced.

Centering exercise to discharge negative energy: Find your quiet space. Sit. Close your eyes. Listen to your breathing. Visualize your breath by focusing on the air going in and out of your nostrils for two minutes. Bring your attention to the center of your chest. If other distracting thoughts enter your head, do not mind them. Just let them fade away. End the exercise by keeping still, doing nothing for one minute.

Being childlike. Bring back your childhood joys—whether it's riding a bicycle or a swing, eating ice cream, identifying the shapes of clouds. "The desire to be young again is a symbol of the deeper desire to remain new." A childlike mindset opens a new path to learning.

Being self-referral. Our self-image is oftentimes based on one's identity, one that is weighed down by public opinion, personal beliefs and habits. Break from this usual image by doing something different—a new sport or activity, volunteer to do civic work, replace an old bad habit for a new, good habit.

Practicing non-attachment. The greatest of challenges is to detach yourself from outside influences. Find your freedom by letting go of your expectations, or somebody's expectations of you, and your egotistical point of view.

When you are unattached to material things, you lose the fear of losing them; when you are unattached to a relationship, you give it room to grow as you give your beloved and yourself the space to be.

Your creative wellness plan

- Sleep six to eight hours a day, preferably before midnight.
- No midnight snacking.
- Eat three balanced meals a day (low fat, low sodium, low sugar).
- Drink eight glasses of water daily.
- Exercise three times weekly. (30-45 minutes per session).
- Meditate twice daily.
- Affirm positive feelings daily. "Today, I intend to experience more energy, more joy, more enthusiasm, more beauty."

Facial polish

Pound 5 tbsp of polished rice. Mix 4 tbsp of olive oil (for the face). On a clean face (devoid of makeup), gently rub the mixture in small circle for 1½ minutes. Rinse with cool water. Feel your new skin emerge.

When you unleash your creative energy, you have the power to rediscover yourself, the one that never grows old—your spirit.

Love and light!

"Total Wellness," the body-mind-spirit workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino, will soon be presented to the public. Schedule to be confirmed this week. Call 537-9653 or 892-6806. "Forever Young" (revised edition) is now available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks. Watch the author's beauty rituals, "Beauty In and Out," 8 a.m. daily on "Unang Hirit," GMA 7.

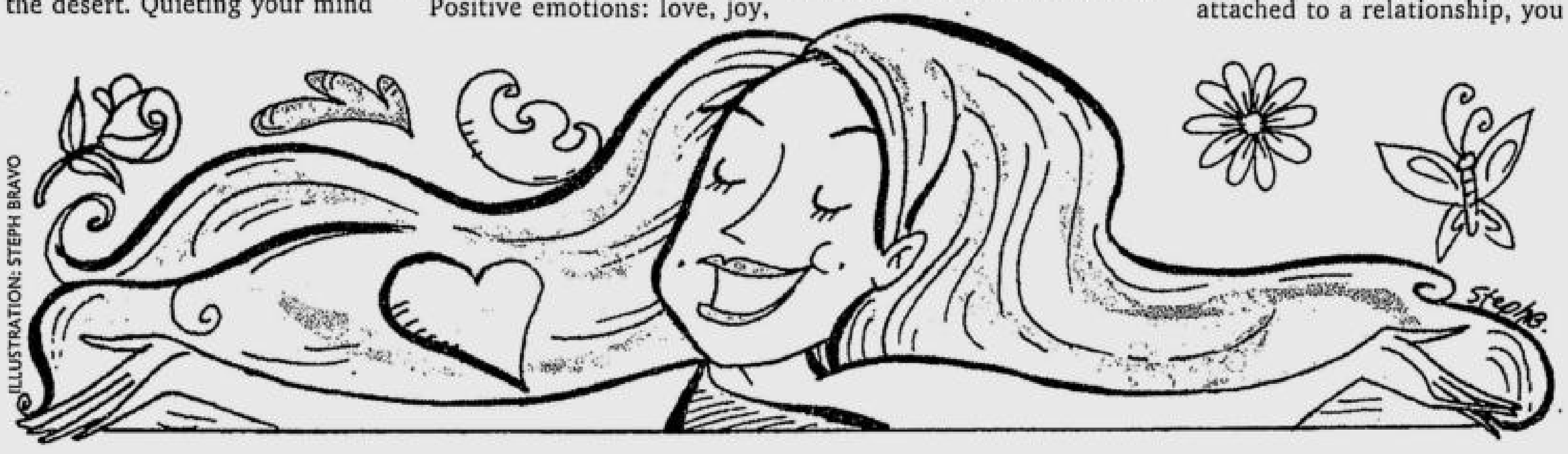


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

An insider's account of free-love, group-sex cult

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

HOW do cults recruit members, make them abandon their own families and submit themselves to the will of cult leaders, including sexual submission?

I've been fascinated and intrigued by the way cults control the minds and emotions of their members, but never really had a chance to look closely at this aspect, until I had a recent encounter with a real victim of one.

Maria Victoria (not her real name) e-mailed me, asking if I knew anybody in the Philippines who had studied cults. Most of what she had read about them were written by foreigners. I referred her to a well-known professor of anthropology in UP, but what she was interested in was the aspect of mind control exerted by leaders on their victims, and not their history, philosophy or activities.

She said she was undertaking this search "as part of my own healing, as I was a victim." She also said she wanted to help others by exposing the real nature of these cults.

When she came to my office last week, I wondered how a highly intelligent and Christian-educated person like her could be duped into becoming a member of a foreign-based religious cult that advocated free love, group sex and other weird practices.

At the time she joined the cult in 1986, she had a degree in Economics from UP and was finishing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) course in the same school. She abandoned everything, including her family, to join the group against the vehement objections of her parents.

"I wanted to serve God and help save the souls of others," she told me. "They represented themselves as Missionaries of God. They preached the Bible and said everything they did was based on the Bible."

"How come you never suspected something was wrong even though you were being asked to have sex with different men?" I asked.

"Oh, that sex aspect didn't come until much later, when we were fully indoctrinated into their own interpretation of the Bible. Everything we did was justified with a quotation from the Bible. We were made to believe everything we did was in accordance with the will of God."

"Exactly how did they do that?" I asked.

"We were made to memorize certain passages in the Bible. For example, we were told our duty in life was to love one another and that we should even lay down our lives the way Christ lay down his life for us."

"We were told that nothing was wrong in the eyes of God, and they would quote 1 Cor. 6:12, 'All things are lawful into me!'".

They interpreted the Bibilical passage, "Love one another," to include sex or physical love.

They were also asked to memorize Rom. 12:1 "Present your bodies as living sacrifices unto God," and so on. "And after months of such indoctrination, we were willing to believe anything the cult leaders told us to do."

Members were separated from their family and friends. They were forbidden to interact with non-members, or even to read newspapers. "They controlled our wills and minds by asking us to write everything we did and thought every day. They would read everything, and then we are told when we deviate from the norm or the rule of the group.

"We were made to recruit others through feminine flirtation, including using sex or going to bed with a prospective member."

She said male members never had it so good because they could have any woman they desire to go to bed with, and nobody would refuse or decline them. It was past of loving one another. She said she saw Filipino men sleep with beautiful white girls of every nationality in the group. Over the nine-year period she was with the cult, Marivic said she must have slept with more than 30 different men. Such sexual encounters were not protected. So there were a lot of pregnancies and most of the time, the women never even knew who the fathers of their babies were. Fortunately, in her case, she had only one pregnancy and she knew who the father was because at the time, she was staying with him in the same room.

"What about the man's wife?" I asked.

"She was sent on assignment outside the country."

"Also sleeping with other men?"

"Yes!"

"So, how did you get out?" I asked. She said she got out not because she felt there was anything wrong with what they were doing but that she fell in love with a British guy who was a former supporter of the cult.

"But he didn't know about the sex part until I told him." He helped her get away from the group.

But even if she had been out of the group for many years, she was still with them emotionally. She did not feel she was sexually exploited and abused. And when she finally realized that, the feeling of guilt, embarrassment and remorse never left her. It was only after she met a foreign therapist, who was familiar with victims of cults, did she come to understand what really happened to her and to do something about it.

"Is the group still active in the Philippines?" I asked her.

"Yes, they are still around, but very low-key. They are afraid of publicity. I couldn't even find the old members anymore," she replied.

"I thought they were disbanded and expelled by the government from the Philippines?"

"The foreigners, yes. They transferred to Thailand and Japan. But the group is still operating in the Philippines up to now."

"That's scary," I said.

"That's why I want to expose them to warn others," she said.

She read everything she could about cults on the Internet and, thus, began her long journey to recovery. She is planning to write a book about her experience with the cult where she promised to reveal everything that happened to her, especially the sexual exploitation. That should make a best-seller.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi Street, Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Circle of hope

From page C4

eryone becomes family, everyone wanting to give and help each other. Everyone becomes part of this dynamic group of alumni.

Aftercare is the transition that directs the sufferer to make something of himself, lead a normal life and be productive.

One recent graduate, who is 43 years old, is going back to college. Another has left for Europe for a master's degree.

The staffers no longer see 10 percent of the patients. Sixty-six percent of them are doing okay; 20 percent have relapsed, but they come for Aftercare sessions. The Recovery Circle believes that the disease will always be there, but it can be arrested. If a member is clean for a year, he is in sustained remission but must continue to be vigilant.

"We just need you to get yourself stable enough, learn enough skills and tools to cope with your disease. We try to get you back out there as soon as we can," Syyap says.

Cass Syyap had been there and back. After his own recovery years ago, he helped out in the counseling of patients. Wanting to raise the level of treatment in Manila, he applied for studies as training counselor at the Hazelden Institute in Minnesota. The institute was in the process of starting its first ever master's degree program, and Syyap was chosen one of six to be the pioneers, the only non-Caucasian.

The Recovery Circle Foundation is now housed at the serene Alberione Oasis in Antipolo, where a mix of natural and landscaped gardens provide the quiet and energy for meditation and healing. Part of the home is still a retreat house, staffed by nuns.

Cass Syyap envisions a foundation that will train therapists, who can go out into the provinces and create their own satellite treatment centers.

Syyap believes in continuing education. Counselors need to have an academic background in Addictions Counseling. The crème of the crop will be encouraged to have further studies in psychology.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Would MEDICard cover for my hospitalization if I get confined in an accredited hospital but under the services of a non-accredited physician?

MEDICard will not cover for a member's healthcare needs if either the hospital or the physicians are not accredited. It is our basic requirement that both the medical facility and attending doctors be accredited service providers. For emergency medical conditions, services of non-accredited providers are covered, however this is only on a reimbursement basis. On the other hand, a special arrangement may be done for large corporate clients, wherein they may avail of services from non-accredited providers called a Point of Service (POS) Program.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard pediatric specialist in Manila Central University-Filemon D. Tanchoco Medical Foundation Hospital (MCU-FDTMF), **Dr. Nepthalie R. Ordoñez** joined MEDICard in 1999. Dr. Nep is a Medicine graduate of MCU. He chose Pediatrics as his specialization and finished his residency training at the MCU Hospital. He now also subspecializes in Pediatric Pulmonology with residency training at the Makati Medical Center. Dr. Ordoñez doubles as a Professor for the College of Medicine of MCU and as a Training Officer for the Department of Pediatrics of MCU-FDTMF. He is a proud member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists. You may visit Dr. Nepthalie Ordoñez for your consultations at Room 15 every Mondays, from 8 to 9 AM and on Fridays, from 8 to 11 in the morning.

MEDICard's on-call Anesthesiologist at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City is **Dr. Maria Cristina B. Dela Cruz**, or Doktora Cristy for short. She is a Fatima College of Medicine graduate. She took her residency training for her specialization at SLMC and has been a member of MEDICard's accredited providers since 1998. She is married to Dr. Ismael Dela Cruz, also an anesthesiologist with whom she has two wonderful children. She is a member of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists and the Quezon City Medical Society. She enjoys playing badminton and swimming but spends most of her free time with her family.

Dr. Maribel T. Galapate has been practicing her profession for over 11 years now. She is a graduate of Medicine from the Perpetual Help College in Biñan, Laguna. She chose to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology, finishing her residency in 1991. She then pursued further training, and in 2001 finished her subspecialization in Infertility and Reproductive Endocrinology. She enjoys passing her free time through reading and watching movies. You may visit her for your consultation needs at Perpetual Help Medical Center in Biñan, Laguna every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 AM to 12 noon, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 to 10 AM and on Mondays and Fridays from 5 PM to 7 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial 817-4985 or 817-5136 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. You may also log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

Circle of hope

Recovery Circle employs a family education program to make drug treatment a shared responsibility

Text by Ada Dacanay-de Leon
Contributor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

A MIX of natural and landscaped gardens provide the energy for meditation.

THERE is something amiss with a loved one. His odd behavior is caused by chemical dependency, so you feel distraught. You may need help yourself, though you may not want to admit it.

Call 912-7929. Talk to Cass Syyap, a psychotherapist with a master's degree in Addictions Counseling from the Hazelden Institute in Minnesota. He himself once was chemically dependent.

"Everyone in this relationship needs healing," Syyap says.

Syyap handles the Family Education Program of the Recovery Circle. The program consists of four sessions that show that chemical dependency is a chronic, progressive disease, not a product of personal weakness or the wrong choices.

The Circle's goal is management, stability and remission. It gives those who need help a co-dependent's support group. Families experiencing the same difficulties and friends sharing their thoughts, successes and failures with one another.

The next phase in the healing process is for the member to use the tools she has learned from the group sessions in convincing her loved one to go into therapy. She should avoid such words as "addict" and "rehab." She should be encouraging and positive.

For the families whose loved one is in treatment, the co-dependents support group meets every Saturday to help them with their own healing. They will be encouraged to keep trying, not to lose hope.

No two cases are alike, says Syyap.

"Some are textbook-perfect. In some cases, everything that can go wrong has gone wrong. We provide you with the strength and stamina."

RECOVERY Circle Foundation is located at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo.

Medical treatment

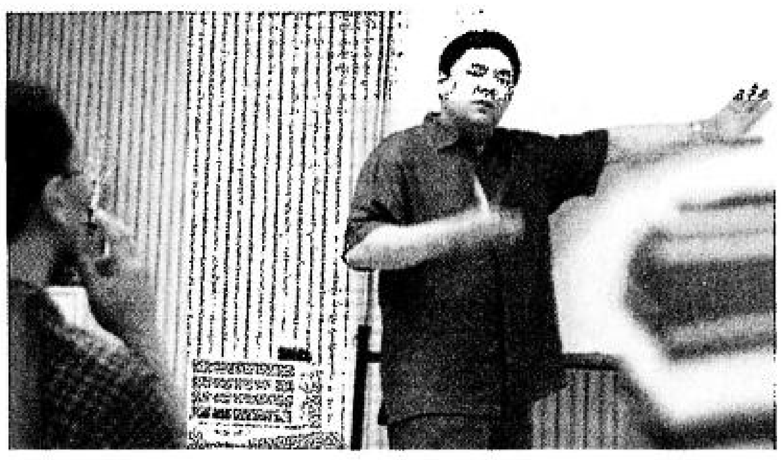
The sufferers undergo a thorough physical examination in the hospital because they have become physically sick and psychologically unstable. They may need medication because medical complications may arise if they quit cold turkey. Severe chemical and alcohol dependencies need detoxification.

They need to be stepped down to a medically managed withdrawal. Users who are in their 40s and 50s may already have a liver problem, hepatitis, etc.

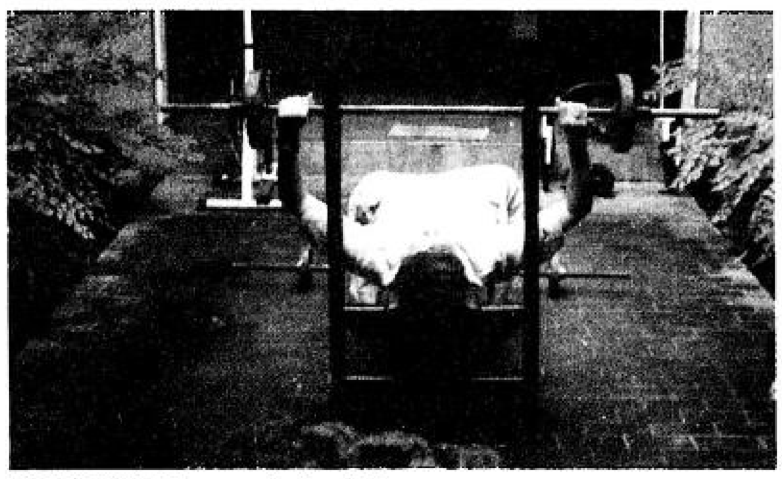
As soon as they are medically and psychologically stable, the staff brings them to the Recovery Circle house. Here they start with an assessment process, which includes IQ testing and other tests that help the therapists choose the best approaches.

If the chemically-dependent person tries to isolate himself, Circle members try to draw him out. If he is narcissistic, feels that he is more special than the rest, they try to make him see his similarities with the other patients.

Information like family of origin, financial stability, spiritual education is also checked.



PSYCHOTHERAPIST Cass Syyap gives lectures to patients.



EXERCISING is part of the 45-day recovery program.

A day in the 45-day recovery period begins at 6 a.m. with prayer and meditation. Then come cleanup of rooms, bathrooms and cabinets, and changing of bed sheets. Then yoga and tai-chi before breakfast.

There are gardening, laundry, snacks, counseling and then lunch. Arts and crafts is followed by support group meetings, fellowship, group therapy, counseling and lectures.

The lectures tackle limitations, gratitude, forgiveness, fear, rejection, loneliness, honesty, relapse, confrontation, values, religion and spirituality, given by staff and alumni in Aftercare.

There's peer interaction. They ask each other, "What do you see in me that is helpful? What do you see that is potentially destructive?" They end the session with, "If I can do it, you can do it." Or, "God did not bring you here only to fail."

In 30 days, patients are ready to heal old resentments with their loved ones. They meet, with Syyap supervising. Hurts are expressed and resolved.

"There is a lot of crying, very emotional, very healing," Syyap says.

Crucial

The 12-month Aftercare program is crucial. Staying sober is the goal. It is achieved with the help of the alumni. The patients try to start new careers or go back to school.

The patient is given a schedule to follow when he leaves the Recovery Circle. He must not fall back into the trap of waking up late. At the aftercare sessions, ev-

CIRCLE/ p.C3

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